

# ITALIAN PICTURES

DRAWN WITH  
PEN AND  
PENCIL



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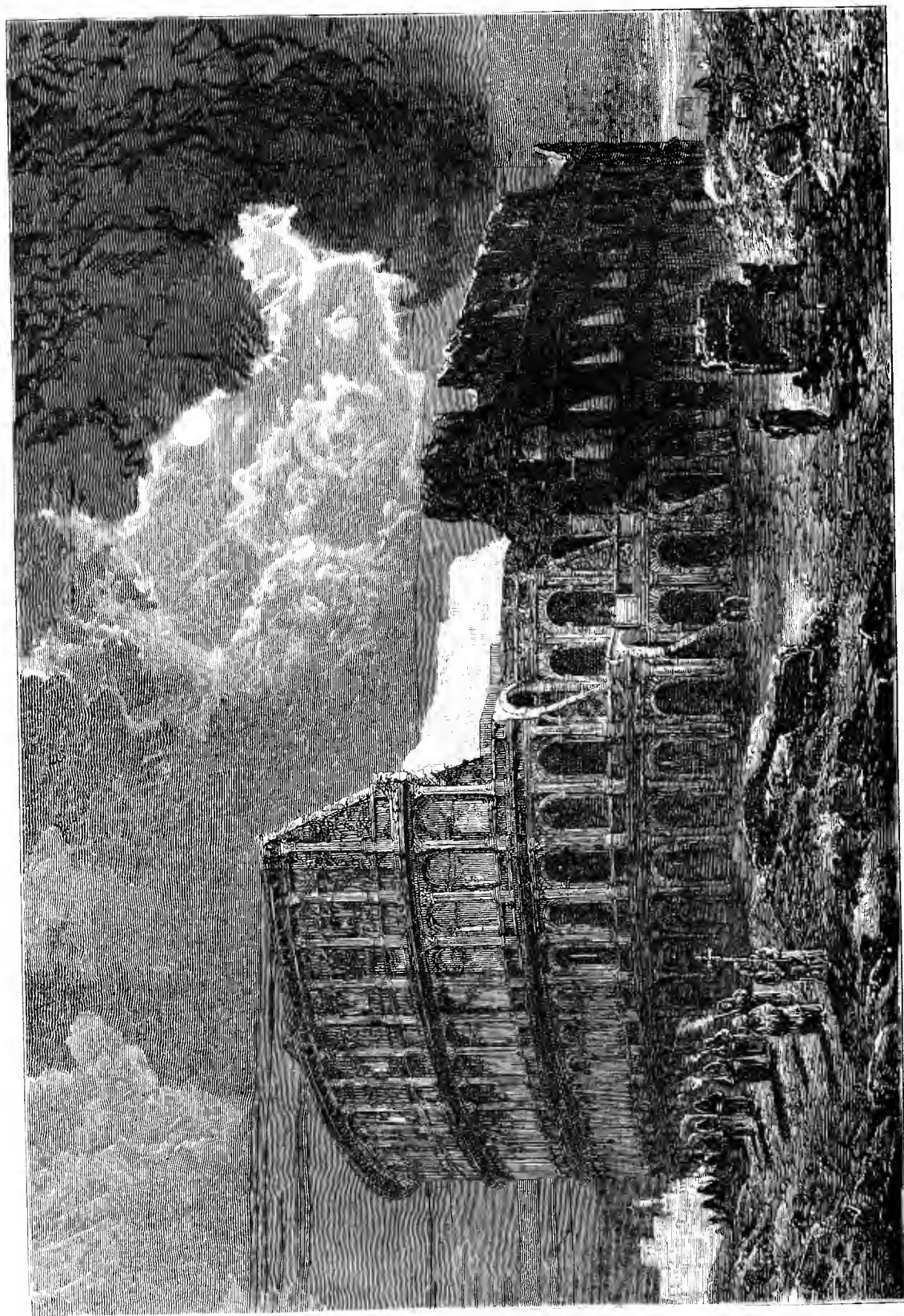
LOUISE ARNER BOYD











THE COLOSSEUM BY MOONLIGHT.

# ITALIAN PICTURES

DRAWN WITH PEN AND PENCIL.

BY THE

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*THOSE HOLY FIELDS," "THE LAND OF THE PHARAOHS," "SPANISH PICTURES,"*  
*"SWISS PICTURES," ETC.*



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"A LAND

WHICH WAS THE MIGHTIEST IN ITS OLD COMMAND,  
AND IS THE LOVELIEST, AND MUST EVER BE  
THE MASTER-MOULD OF NATURE'S HEAVENLY HAND;  
WHEREIN WERE CAST THE HEROIC AND THE FREE,  
THE BEAUTIFUL, THE BRAVE, THE LORDS OF EARTH AND SEA.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF KINGS, THE MEN OF ROME!  
AND EVEN SINCE, AND NOW, FAIR ITALY!  
THOU ART THE GARDEN OF THE WORLD, THE HOME  
OF ALL ART YIELDS, AND NATURE CAN REDEEM;  
EVEN IN THY DESERT, WHAT IS LIKE TO THEE?  
THY VERY WEEDS ARE BEAUTIFUL, THY WASTE  
MORE RICH THAN OTHER CLIMES' FERTILITY;  
THY WRECK A GLORY, AND THY RUIN GRACED  
WITH AN IMMACULATE CHARM WHICH CANNOT BE DEFACTED."

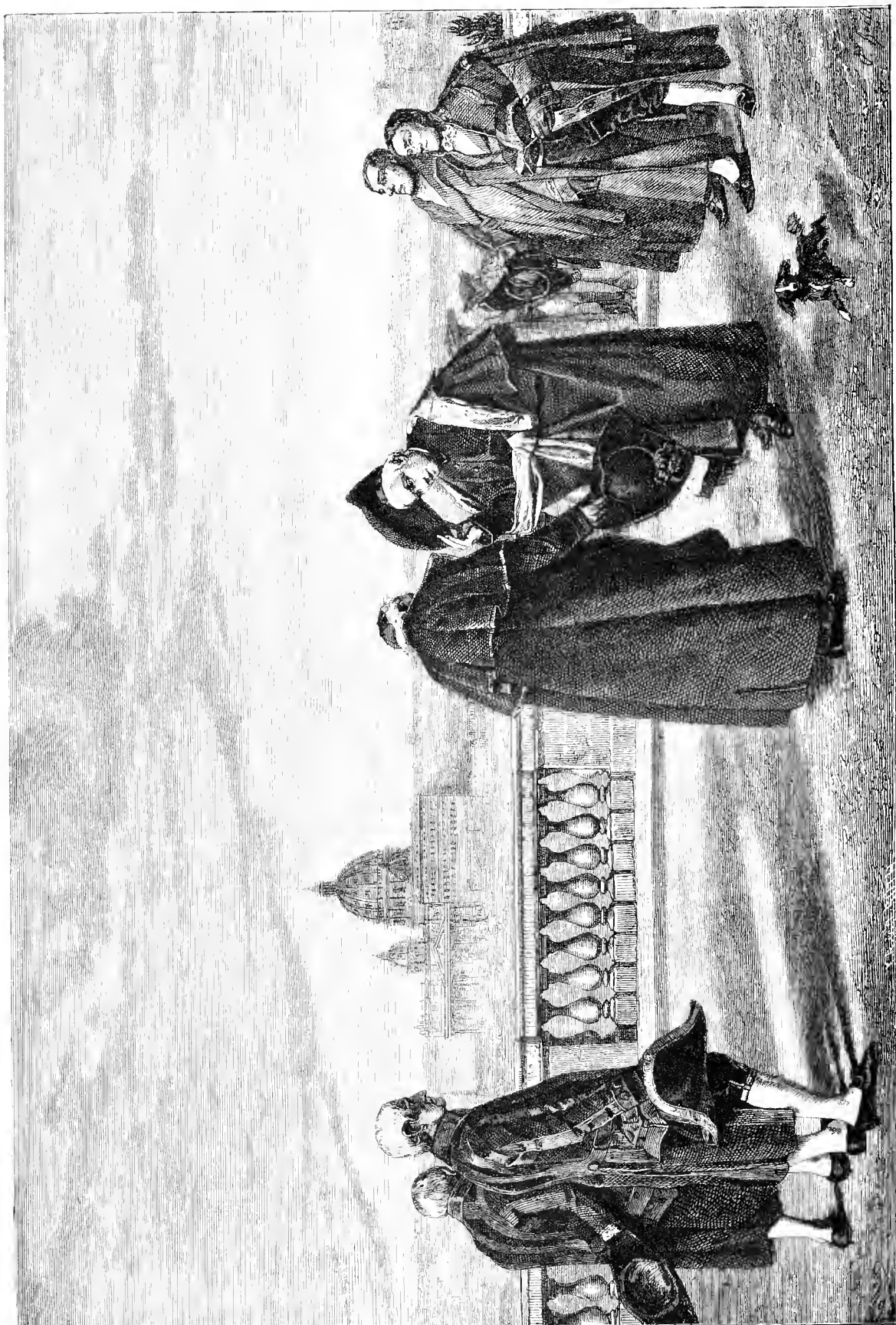
*Childe Harold.*



"Sed neque Meliorum sive, ditissima terra,  
Nec pulcher Ganges, atque auro turbidus Hermus,  
Laudibus Italæ centent; non Bacra, neque Indus,  
Hic ver adsiduum atque alienis mensuris æstas,  
Eis gravidæ pecudes, his tomis utilis arbor."

*Georgics, ii 135.*





ON THE PINCIAN, WITH ST. PETER'S IN THE DISTANCE.  
(After a Painting by Ferdinand Heilbuth.)



## ROME AND THE ROMANS.

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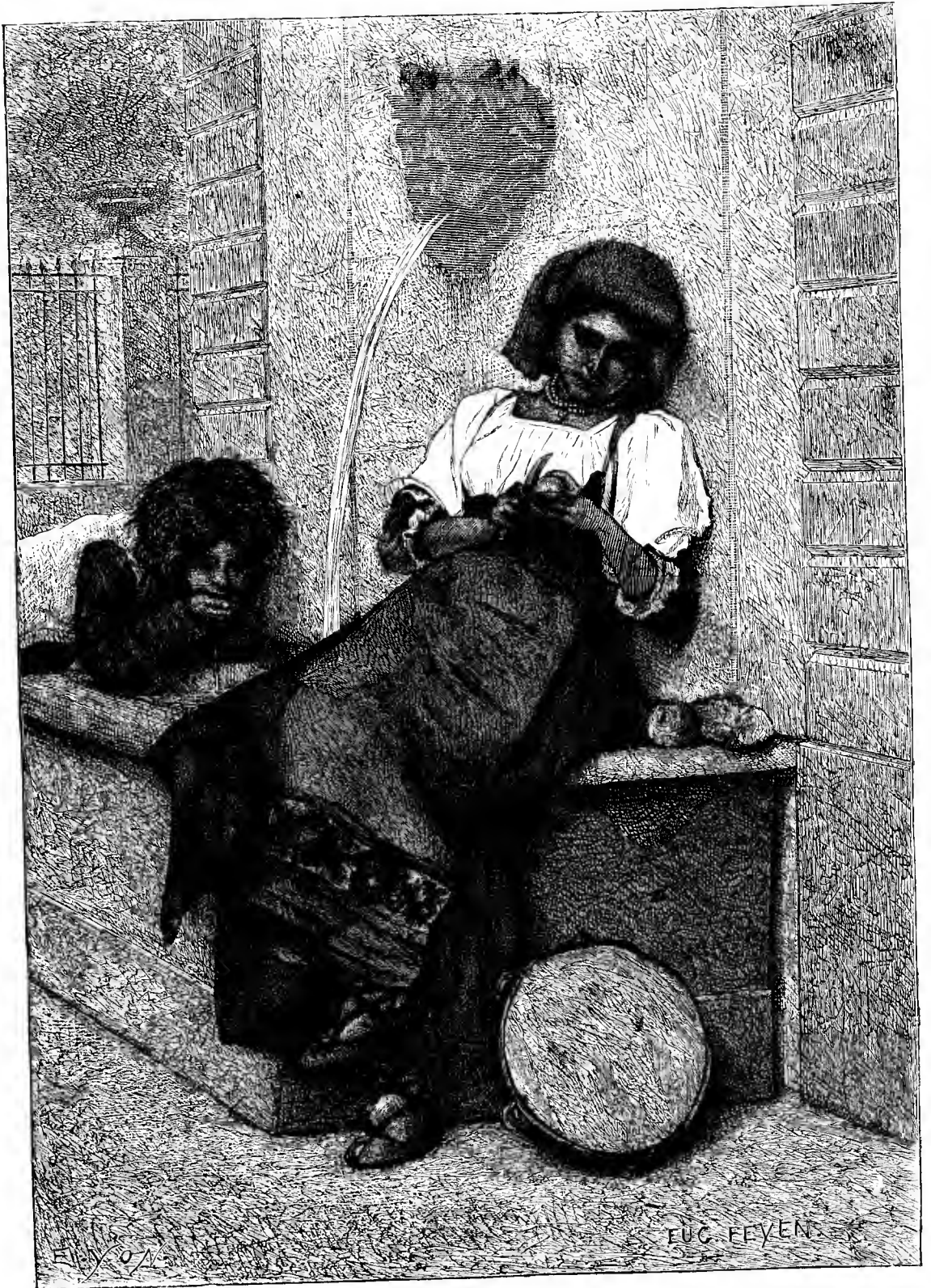
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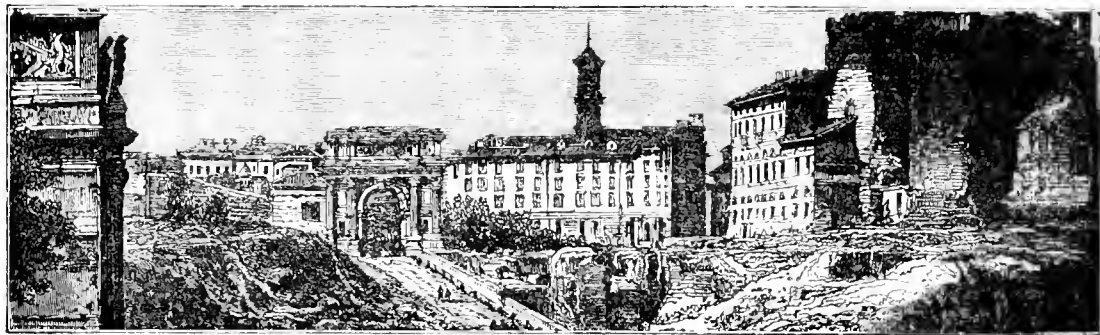




# ROME AND THE ROMANS.



THE NOON-DAY REPAST.



## ROME AND THE ROMANS.



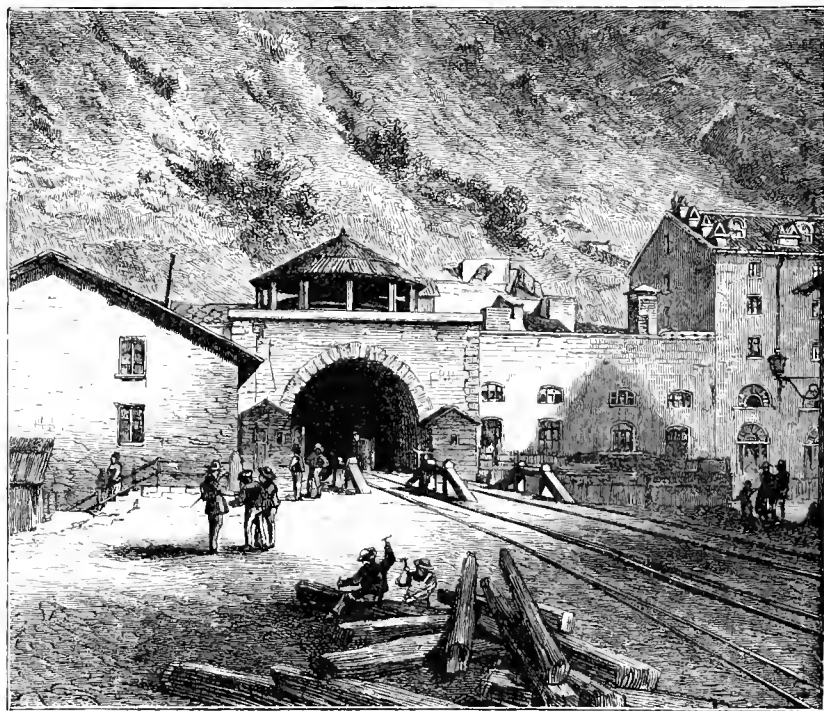
ON THE PINCIAN.

REVISITING Italy after an absence of some years, one is constantly struck by the fact that if modern travel has gained immensely in speed, comfort, and punctuality, it has lost a good deal in picturesqueness and variety. Turin may be easily reached from London in thirty-six hours. It is not long since the distance from London to York occupied the same time, and the traveller reached his destination far more weary and travel-stained from his journey of a couple of hundred miles than he does now after traversing half a continent. If steam has not annihilated the horrors of "the middle passage," it has at least abridged them; and it is possible to anticipate an attack of sea-sickness with equanimity, when its duration is restricted to ninety minutes.

But the change is not all gain. Travelling now-a-days is apt to become tedious in its monotony. Its mechanical regularity leaves little room for adventure. Railways are alike all over Europe, and the Italian *ferrovie* differ from those of other countries only in their intolerable slowness. The *stazione* at Capua or at Pompeii might be a station at Wapping, but for its greater dirt and discomfort. The carriage which takes us to Florence or Rome is the exact counterpart

of that which brought us to Dover or Folkestone. There is little to remind the traveller that he is in Italy, not in England; and he has to stimulate his imagination into activity by saying to himself, "It is not Margate or Brighton that I am approaching, but Naples or Rome." And when he has reached his destination, the station, the railway porters, and the omnibuses are fatal to his rising enthusiasm. How different was it in the old ante-railway days! Gliding into Venice by gondola was felt to be a fitting introduction to the dream-like life of that silent city of the sea. It was a day of intense and ceaseless excitement when we crossed the Campagna from Bolsena or Civita-Vecchia, drove along the Appian Way, or dashed through the Porta del Popolo, and rattled along the Corso.

However imposing the scenery through which a railway runs, there is no time or opportunity for its enjoyment. One is whisked away before the eye has been able to drink in its beauty. In former days we could halt on the top of the Splügen and gaze at the great Lombard plain, stretching far away into the blue haze on the horizon; could loiter amidst the wondrous combination of snowy peaks, and tropical valleys, and jutting headlands, and blue sea on the Riviera; could pause and look back, mile after mile, as the glories of the Val d'Aosta, or the beauties of the Italian lakes, receded into the distance. But, even in Italy, railway travelling is too rapid to admit of this. There are, however, exceptions to this rule. The

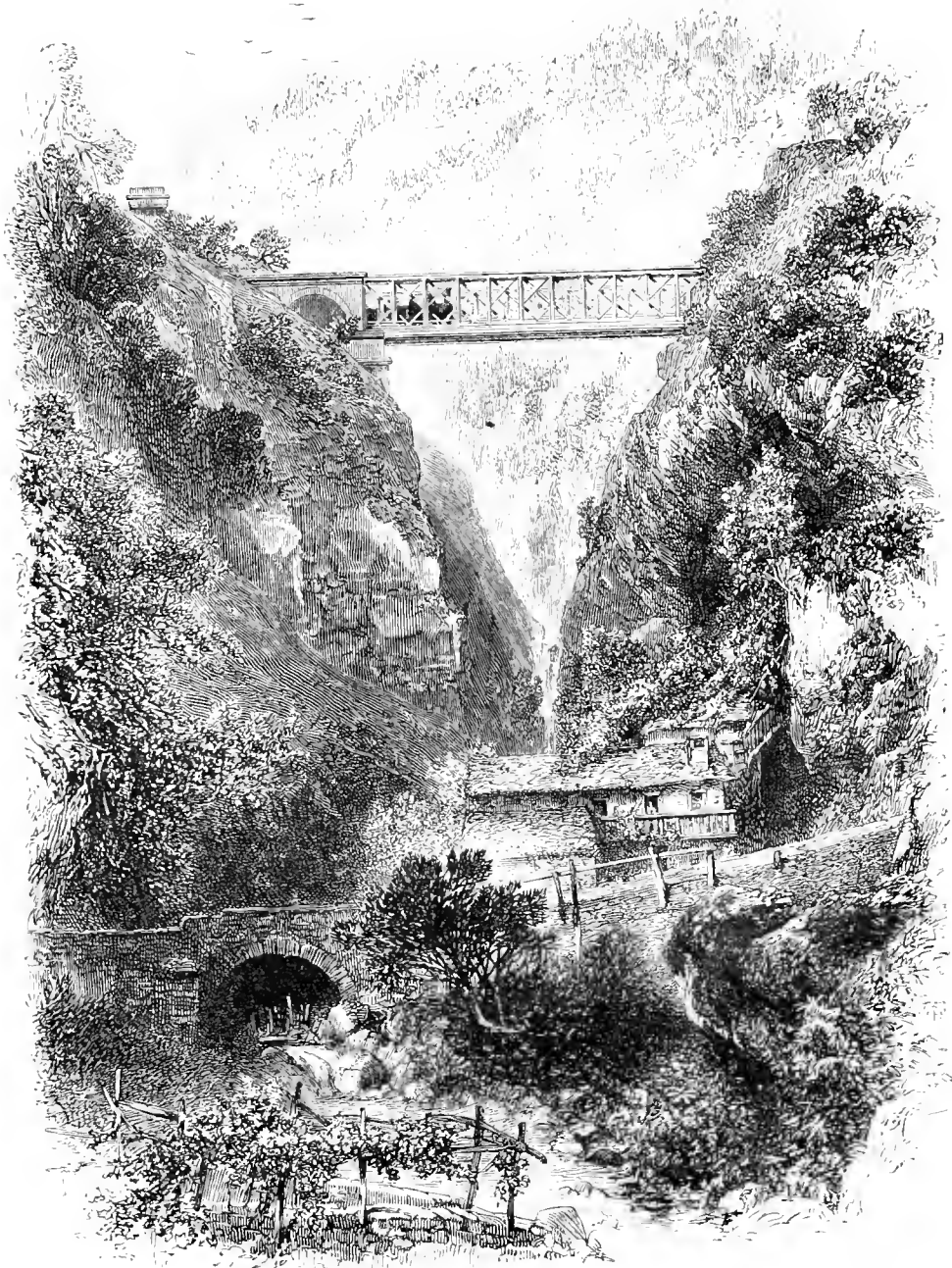


THE MONT CENIS TUNNEL, FROM THE ITALIAN SIDE.

grand outlines of the mountains, amid which the Mont Cenis route winds, are seen to great advantage from the train. And as one climbs a steep ascent, shoots across some perilous gorge, or plunges into the tunnel, the sense of man's power and his victory over nature adds to the impressiveness of the scenery.

Then, too, the old roads led through many a picturesque town and village, affording bits of characteristic colour or incident which are missed altogether on

THE MONT CENIS ROUTE.



OVER THE COMBE OSCURA, ON THE MONT CENIS ROUTE.

a railway journey. And, except Spain, no country in Europe is so rich in scenes of this kind. The barber, with his gossips around him, is seen plying his trade in the open air. The cobbler has pitched his stall under the portico of some old Etruscan temple or Roman basilica—old before our history began—and



hammers away ignorant and careless of the antique grandeur around him. A group of girls chatter at the well, where the legions may have halted, and listen half afraid to the Capuchin friar who lingers in the shade on his way home to his convent on the hill-side. To the traveller by the *vetturino* the whole domestic life of the people is exposed; for the Italian peasant lives in the open air. The dirty hovel he calls his home offers no inducement to stay in it one moment longer than is necessary. The bright sunshine, and balmy air, and pleasant shade, offer an attractive contrast to the gloom and squalor within. Domestic privacy is unknown and undesired. An insight into the life of the people was thus afforded even to the passing traveller, which added immensely to the interest of a tour. Rushing through the country by train, time is economised, comfort is secured, the destination is reached speedily and without fatigue; but the journey itself is wanting in interest.



SHAVING AL FRESCO.

The lover of the picturesque, however, will not fail to observe with regret that what was peculiar and characteristic in the habits of the people is passing away. Dress is rapidly becoming the same all over Europe. Except on *festas*, a group of Italian peasants would attract no attention in Connemara. Indeed, one is constantly struck by the resemblance between a crowd of Irish and Italian labourers. Watch the country people pouring into Florence in the early morning; not more than half-a-dozen will wear the national hat of Tuscan straw. In Naples, the Phrygian cap is now rarely worn even by fishermen and lazzaroni. One may walk for hours in Rome without seeing a single specimen of the picturesque costume which figures so largely on the walls of our Royal Academy. In the Piazza di Spagna, indeed, and on the steps of Trinità de' Monti it is common





GOSSIPING AT THE WELL.



# ITALIAN COSTUME.



ROMAN PEASANTS: THE IDEAL.

enough. Here are venerable patriarchs, clad in their sheep-skin cloaks, with long white beards resting upon their aged breasts, and looking like Belisarius begging for an obolus. Bloodthirsty brigands scowl at passers-by with a ferocity which might strike terror into the boldest heart. Young girls, in faultless Roman costume, dance to the music of bagpipe and tambourine, or seat themselves in attitudes of careless grace around the fountain in the piazza. But their faces seem familiar to you. Where can you have seen them before? The truth flashes upon you. They are models who have been painted again and again by English, French, and



ROMAN PEASANTS PLAYING AT MORA: THE REAL

American artists, and who come here to be hired. There can scarcely be a stronger contrast than that between the Roman peasant of poetry and art, and the actual prosaic fact. At Carnival time, indeed, or at the great festivals, such as Easter and Christmas, large numbers of *contadini* and *pifferari*, in their picturesque costumes, may be seen in Rome and the other Italian cities. But the increase of travelling, the breaking down of old barriers, the spread of a cosmopolitan spirit, are rapidly sweeping away local customs and national costumes.

But if it be true, as I think it is, that a tour through Italy is less interesting and exciting now than it was years ago, yet it is no less true that of all countries in the world Italy is that which best repays the traveller. Deeper feelings may be awakened in Palestine—

“Those holy fields,  
Over whose acres walked those blessed feet  
Which, eighteen hundred years ago, were nailed,  
For our advantage, on the bitter cross.”

But scarcely a trace or vestige remains to connect the Palestine of to-day with that of our Lord and His apostles. Of the city of David and the temple of Solomon the sentence has been fulfilled: “Verily I say unto you, there shall not be left one stone upon another.” There is nothing to mark the site of Calvary. Only a doubtful tradition bids us “Come, see the place where the Lord lay.” The traveller is perplexed and his enthusiasm chilled by endless controversies and contradictory assertions as to the holy places. But in Rome the history of two thousand five hundred years—nearly half the whole duration of man upon the earth—is recorded in contemporary monuments. Stand upon the Capitol. Before you is the Palatine where Romulus stood: beneath you are Cyclopean walls and the rock-hewn dungeon of one of the villages out of which the empire sprang. On yonder hills Hannibal encamped. Through those gates marched the legions which conquered the world. There runs the Via Sacra along which the victorious generals passed in triumph. The Forum in which crowds hung upon the eloquence of Cicero, and the spot where Cæsar fell pierced with wounds are before us. There stretches the Appian Way, trodden by the feet of a prisoner from Jerusalem who was to win for his Master a nobler victory, and for himself a more imperishable crown, than Romans ever knew. That vast pile is the Colosseum where Christians were flung to the lions, and gave their blood to be the seed of the Church. The Campagna around us is hollowed into catacombs in which they laid down their dead to rest in peace. There stands the arch where Titus passed bearing the spoils of the temple. Baths, temples, palaces, basilicas attest the splendour of the empire, and mark its decline and ruin. The records of mediæval anarchy may be read in battlemented ruins. And each step in the history of the papacy has left its mark in the ecclesiastical edifices around us through its culminating splendours in the Basilica of St. Peter down to the column which celebrates the dogma of the immaculate conception, and the tablet which announces the infallibility of the pope.

Anything more lonely and desolate than the Campagna around Rome it would be difficult to imagine. A waste of moorland stretches far and wide, covered with greyish brown moss and coarse grass. Its surface is broken up by a succession of hillocks, many, perhaps most, of which cover the remains of ancient grandeur and prosperity. Out of not a few of them rise crumbling walls and towers of various dates—the strongholds of turbulent barons, the villas and palaces of Roman senators and knights, or old Etrurian towns which had passed their prime before Rome rose to empire. Buffaloes and dove-coloured oxen wander over the waste or plunge into the morasses which lie between the mounds, to escape the stings of innumerable swarms of flies. Goats and goat-like sheep straggle here and there, guarded by wolf-like dogs, and tended by herdsmen, clad in sheep-skin jackets, their feet and legs swathed in filthy rags. The few human beings one encounters are livid in complexion, with sunken eyes and fever-stricken faces—for the malaria exhaled from the soil is laden with the seeds of disease and death. Here and there a string of country carts may be seen—a few boards rudely nailed together and drawn by oxen or miserable horses—each one has a canopy of basket-work covered with hide, beneath which the driver crouches to escape the wind, or rain, or sun. Across this dreary waste travellers hasten to reach the city before sunset, for to breathe the air of the Campagna after nightfall might be fatal. The graphic description written by Beckford, on his journey from Radicofani, a century ago, is still true :

“On the left, afar off, rises the rugged chain of the Apennines, and on the other side a shining expanse of ocean terminates

THE CAMPAGNA NEAR OSTIA.



THE ROMAN CAMPAGNA.

the view. It was upon this surface so many illustrious actions were performed : and I know not where a mighty people could have chosen a grander theatre. Here was space for the march of mighty armies, and verge enough for



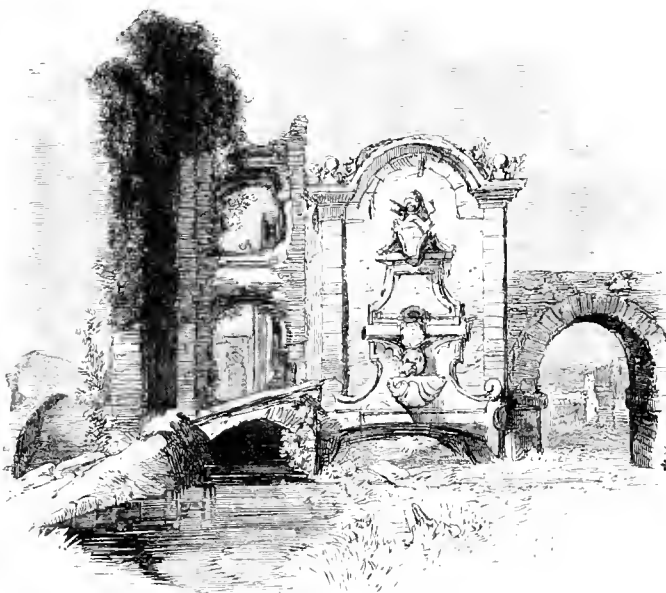
SHEPHERD OF THE CAMPAGNA.

encampments ; levels for martial games, and room for that variety of roads and causeways that led from the capital to Ostia. How many triumphant legions

have trodden these pavements ! how many captive kings ! What throngs of cars and chariots once glittered on their surfaces ! savage animals dragged from Africa ; and the ambassadors of Indian princes, followed by their exotic trains, hastening to implore the favour of the Senate.

"During many ages, this eminence commanded almost every day such illustrious scenes ; but all are vanished ; the splendid tumult is passed away : silence and desolation remain. Dreary flats thinly scattered over with ilex, and barren hillocks crowned by solitary towers, were the only objects we perceived for several miles. Now and then we passed a few black ill-favoured sheep straggling by the way-side, near a ruined sepulchre, just such animals as an ancient would have sacrificed to the Manes.

Sometimes we crossed a brook, whose rippings were the only sound which broke the general stillness, and observed the shepherds' huts on its banks, propped up with broken pedestals and marble friezes. . . . Heath and a greyish kind of moss are the sole vegetation which covers this endless wilderness. Every slope is strewn with the relics of a happier period ; trunks of trees, shattered columns, cedar beams, helmets of bronze, skulls, and coins are frequently dug up together."\*



RUINED FOUNTAIN ON THE CAMPAGNA.

There is, however, a certain fitness in this region of loneliness and desolation around the fallen city. It is thus cut off from the busy world outside. Shrunken within its ancient walls, "a world too wide" for its diminished size, it is isolated in the midst of the waste. It stands alone in solitary state, its ruined fortunes sympathised with, as it were, by surrounding nature. The mighty aqueducts which stretch for leagues across the plain, and the masses of ruin which encumber it, speak most affectingly of ancient magnificence and present decay.

The question is often asked as to the causes of the malaria which now depopulates the Campagna, and which in summer turns parts even of the city into a pest-house. The answer is difficult. It is certain that it did not prevail in former times. Forsyth points out that under the empire the public ways were lined with houses to Aricia, to Oriculum, to Tibur, to the sea. Nero projected a third circuit of walls which should enclose half the Campagna—

\* *Italy, with Sketches of Spain and Portugal.* By the Author of *Vathek*.

a district now reeking with poison. Malaria prevailed, indeed, in a small district between Antium and Lanuvium, but that it was not serious even here seems proved by the fact that Antium grew magnificent under the emperors, and Lanuvium was surrounded by splendid villas. Pliny says, that even the Pomptine Marshes were at one time populous, and contained twenty-three (some manuscripts read thirty-three) cities. Though this statement is discredited by Niebuhr and other authorities, and is doubtless exaggerated, yet there must have been some ground for it. The origin of the evil is probably to be found in a variety of causes. The swampy character of the soil, and the want of any natural drainage, would make it unhealthy. The dense population of this part of Italy under the Romans producing a high state of cultivation, and a complete system of irrigation, prevented serious mischief. But the open country became depopulated during the barbarian inroads. Under a thousand years of papal misgovernment the depopulation continued. All attempts at drainage had ceased. The soil, saturated with animal and vegetable refuse, accumulating age after age, became a hot-bed reeking with corruption, and pouring forth pestilence into the air.

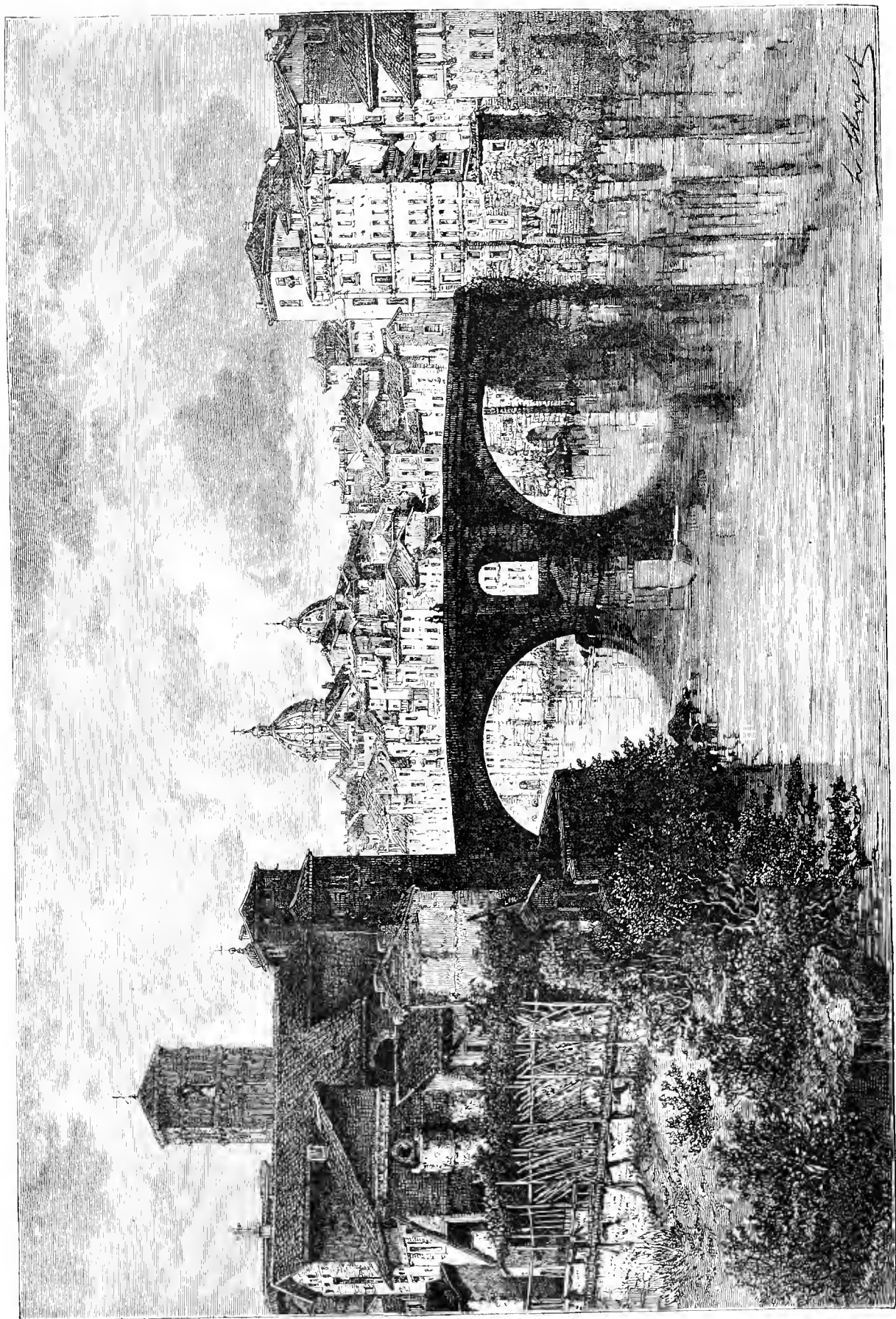
Macaulay, in a well-known passage, traces a striking contrast between the Lothians of Scotland and the Roman Campagna. The former, with all the disadvantages of a barren soil, ungenial climate, and sullen skies, have been raised to a condition of the highest fertility and prosperity. The latter, which once bloomed like a garden, has sunk into a pestilential morass, or a dreary, barren, unpeopled waste. In the one, evangelical piety has trained up a population at once manly and godly, developing in them those qualities which are "profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come." The other, beneath the withering blight of papal tyranny and superstition, has become and remained a plague-spot in one of the fairest regions in the world. We may extend into universal application the threatening and the promise pronounced by Old Testament prophets upon the land of Israel. In its apostacy "the cormorant and the bittern shall possess it; the owl also and the raven shall dwell in it: and He shall stretch out upon it the line of confusion and the stones of emptiness. They shall call the nobles thereof to the kingdom, but none shall be there, and all her princes shall be nothing. And thorns shall come up in her palaces, nettles and brambles in the fortresses thereof; and it shall be an habitation of dragons, and a court for owls." But where true religion prevails "the wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing; the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, and the excellency of our God."\*

Everything in and around Rome deepens the impression of loneliness produced by the Campagna. Within the walls are vast spaces, void and desolate,

\* Isaiah xxxiv. 11-13; xxxv. 1, 2.







THE ISLAND IN THE TIBER, AND BRIDGE OF QUATTRO CAPELLI.



grass-grown mounds and mouldering ruins. Even amongst the more modern edifices many are falling into dilapidation and decay. The number of convents now empty of their former inmates, and of churches closed, except, perhaps, for a single day in the year, add to the general sense of gloom. The Tiber, too, is without a boat upon it. Seldom or never is the splash of oar or paddle heard in its silent waters. At the Ripetta, indeed, a few barges may be seen laden with marble for the use of sculptors. A small steamer used to ply once a week to Civita Vecchia and back, chiefly for the service of the French army of occupation; but it sank at its moorings, and, no attempt having been made to raise it, it lay for some years with the tops of its funnel and paddle-boxes showing above the water. With these insignificant exceptions, the river, which was once the pride of the Roman's heart, runs down to the sea as destitute of commerce as though it flowed through an unpeopled desert. The rapid development of commercial activity resulting from the formation of the Italian kingdom, however, promises speedily to restore something of its ancient prosperity to the Tiber.

Mr. Howard Hopley gives the following vivid description of the impression made on the visitor by a first view of the city :

"Eccola, signor, eccola! Roma!" It was long ago, before railways bestrode the Campagna. I had travelled all night, getting into a sound sleep as people usually do just before dawn, and now, when the early sun of a glorious summer morning shot and glinted through the blooming vineyards and silver olives of the hillside, down which by zigzag ways our dusty vehicle was lumbering, our driver roused me to take my first view of the city. The whole scene lay spread out, reaching to Tivoli and to the far snow-crested Apennines. A semi-transparent sea of mist lay in the hollows and brooded over the broad Campagna. The cupolas and domes of the city uprose through it like a cluster of shining islands in a summer sea. Presently the mist rolled off. The landscape cleared. Was that Rome in very deed—that city solitary amid broad miles of undulating moor-like waste? For a moment there swam before me a vision of Rome the Great, with its million-voiced life, diademed with temples and towers, all quivering in the sun.

"With alabaster domes and silver spires,  
And blazing terrace upon terrace high  
Uplifted: here serene pavilions bright  
In avenues disposed; there towers bedight  
With battlements that on their restless fronts  
Bore stars."

And I contrasted that visionary Babylon of the brain with the city I now saw for the first time. How shrunken and dishonoured, was my first impression, yet how splendid in dishonour and decay! The circuit of the ancient walls was there. I could trace it. But then I remembered that old Rome overshot its walls far into the Campagna. Whereas it was now the Campagna that came *inside* the

walls. The roundness of youth and beauty had shrunken in, and the girdling line hung loosely about the city.

The point on the hillside to which our vehicle had come was a capital one for a general survey, but too far off to particularise. We stopped at a rustic *osteria* to get breakfast. Lush creepers ran flowering and festooning over the



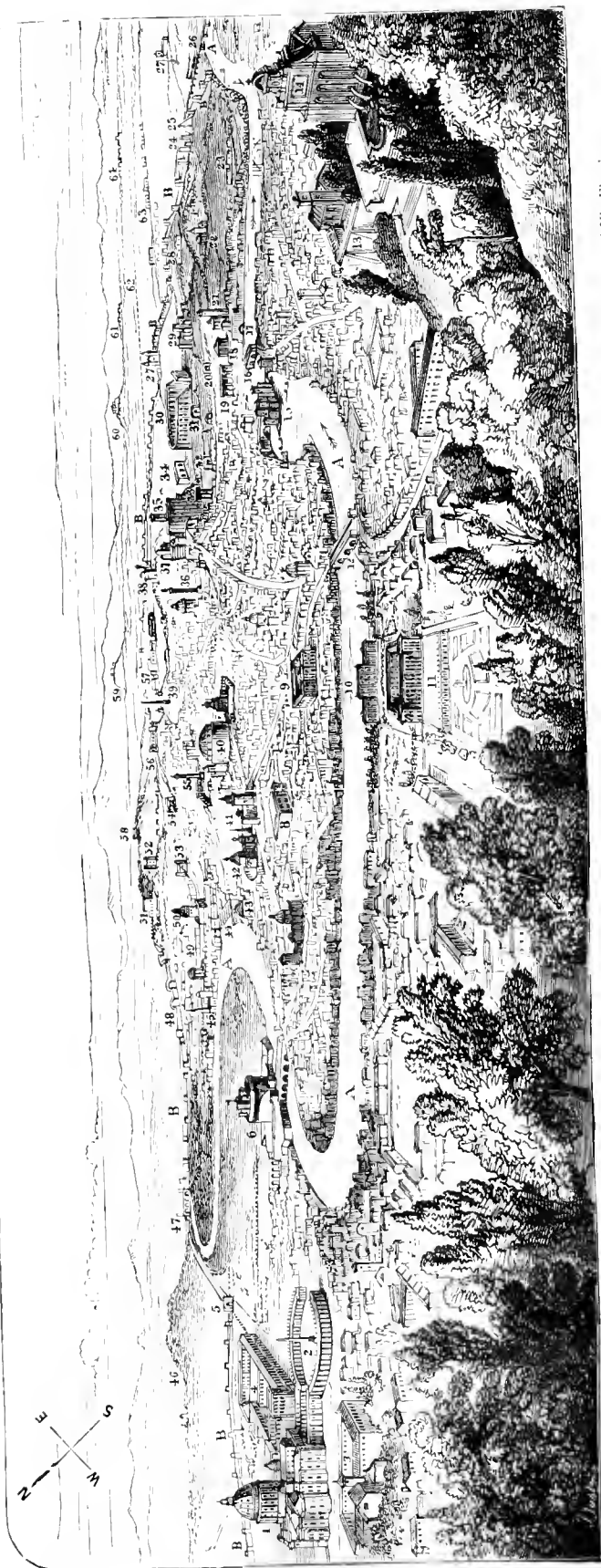
ON THE CAMPAGNA.

door trellis. In the gloom within was a tumult of coffee cups and clamour for hot smoking supplies. Across the dusty road stood an old sarcophagus turned into a horsetrough, where two little dark-eyed peasant girls in scarlet petticoats stood dabbling. Water trickled into it from a green mossy runnel down the hillside amid tufts of starry cyclamen. Nature was prodigal with fresh young life in decking this stony relic of the dead. I climbed up and looked abroad.



PEASANT CHILDREN OF THE CAMPAGNA.

# A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF ROME.



- A.A. The Tiber.  
 B.B. The Walls of Rome.  
 1. St. Peter's.  
 2. Piazza and Obelisk of St. Peter's.  
 3. Palace of the Inquisition.  
 4. Palace of the Vatican.  
 5. Porta Angelica.  
 6. Castle and Bridge of St. Angelo.  
 7. Piazza dell'Orologio, and Church of Santa Maria Valuella.  
 8. Palazzo della Cancelleria, or Court of Church Chancery.  
 9. Farnese Palace.  
 10. Palazzo and Giardino Farnese.  
 11. The Corsini Palace.  
 12. Ponte Sisto.  
 13. Church and Convent of St. Peter in Montorio.  
 14. Fountain of Pius V.  
 15. Island on the Tiber.  
 16. Ponte Rotto, or the Broken Bridge.  
 17. Cloaca Maxima.  
 18. Temple of Vesta.  
 19. Temple of Fortuna Virilis.  
 20. Arch of Janus.  
 21. Church of Santa Maria in Cosmodin.  
 22. Church of Santa Sabina Aventino.  
 23. Ruins of the Emporium.  
 24. Gate of St. Paul.  
 25. Pyramid of Caius Cestius, in the Protestant Cemetery.  
 26. The Civita Vecchia Railway Bridge.  
 27. Basilica of St. John Lateran.  
 28. Baths of Caracalla.  
 29. Palace of the Caesars and Mount Palatine.  
 30. The Colosseum . . . { In the Forum Romanum,  
 31. Arch of Constantine } or Campo Vaccino.  
 32. Arch of Titus . . . {  
 33. The Three Columns of Jupiter Tonans } In the Forum Romanum,  
 34. Temple of Peace . }  
 35. The Capitol.  
 36. Trojan's Column.  
 37. Church of Santa Maria in Caeli.  
 38. Santa Maria Maggiore.  
 39. Obelisk and celebrated Horses on Monte Cavallo.  
 40. The Pantheon, with Church of Santa Maria Minerva in Piazza—Minerva to the right.  
 41. The Roman University.  
 42. Church of St. Agnes in the Piazza Navona.  
 43. The Mausoleum of Augustus.  
 44. Port of Ripetta, or Little Port of the Tiber.  
 45. Obelisk in the Piazza del Popolo, and Terraces of the Pincian Hill.  
 46. Monte Mario.  
 47. Ponte Molle and Via Flaminia.  
 48. Muro Torto, or the Twisted Wall.  
 49. The Corso.  
 50. Church of St. Carlo on the Corso.  
 51. The Villa Medici on the Pincian Hill.  
 52. Church of La Trinita de Monte.  
 53. Fountain of the Baraccia in the Piazza di Spagna.  
 54. Fountain de Trevi.  
 55. Antonino's Column.  
 56. Palace on the Quirinal.  
 57. Baths of Diocletian and Central Railway Station.  
 58. The Villa Borghesi.  
 59. Tivoli.  
 60. Palestrina.  
 61. Column.  
 62. The Central Railway to Naples, etc.  
 63. Ruins of the Apueducts across the Campagna.  
 64. Frascati.

There was Rome, as I said, islanded in an expanse of waste. The Campagna seemed like some immense arena circled by hills, peopled with funereal hollows, a vision that fell dead on the heart. It was an amphitheatre, but an amphitheatre on the morrow of a festival—mute and sepulchral. Marbles gone, palaces in ruins, aqueducts gapped in their long stride across the plain, like teeth in the-jaw of a skull. The multitudes who had striven were now silent. The gladiators were gone. The dead had been dragged off. The seats were empty. The innumerable crowd lay mingling with the clods, forgotten, confounded. You felt that a whole world had perished off that spot—that those scant vestiges were mere suggestions of what had been.

Let us fancy ourselves sitting together on the brow of the Janiculum, whence our sketch is drawn. We are in the gardens above the Corsini Palace<sup>11</sup> on the transpontine side of the Tiber. Behind us are traces of the Aurelian wall, also of the gate whence, along the Via Aurelia, old Rome poured out of the city seawards.

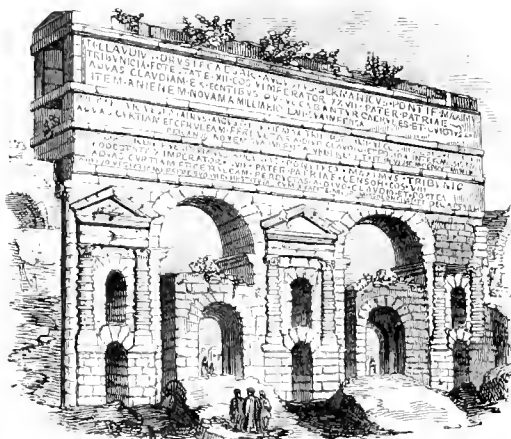
First and foremost in point of interest we touch upon the Palatine Hill.<sup>16</sup> This was the nucleus of all Rome. From this she extended her circumference till she took in the whole world. On the summit of the Palatine, Romulus, a simple shepherd boy, stood and watched his flight of birds of good augury, while Remus, from the adjacent Aventine,<sup>22</sup> surveyed his own unsuccessful flight. The Cæsars' imperial seat was on the Palatine. Augustus thought to build for all time. But now the halls of the Cæsars are a mass of stupendous ruins, cropping up amid the fresh bloom of terraced gardens and vineyards.

The seven-hilled city. Where are the seven hills? We have enumerated two, the Palatine and the Aventine. The Capitoline<sup>35</sup> was the high place where Rome embraced her heroes. It led up by a steep ascent from the Forum. On the highest spot was the Temple of Jupiter Capitolinus, where



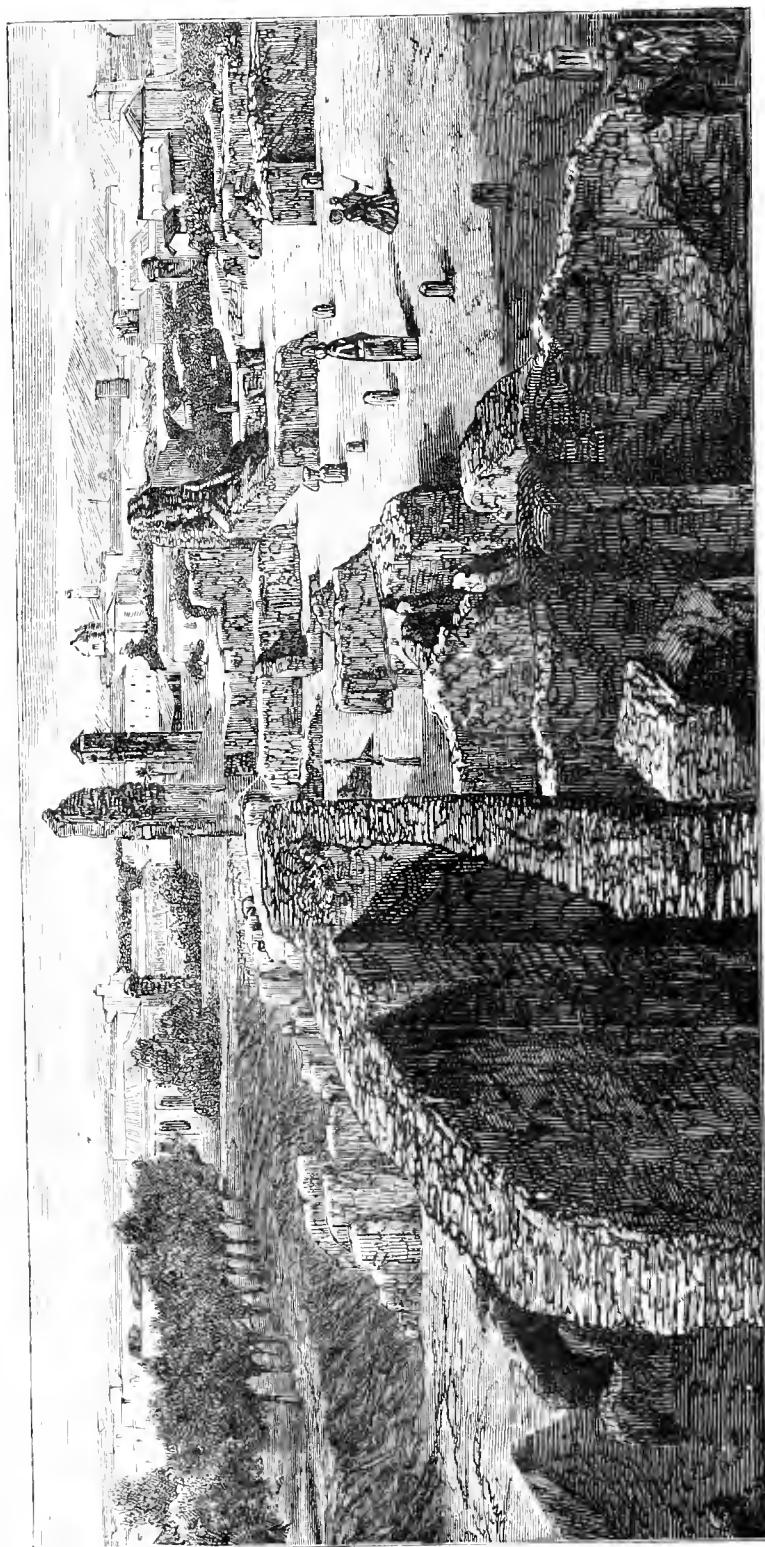
THE CAPITOL.

you now see the towers of Ara Cœli flaming in the sun, approached by a long flight of marble steps. Titus, in the splendours of a long-drawn processional



PORTION OF THE CLAUDIAN AQUEDUCT.





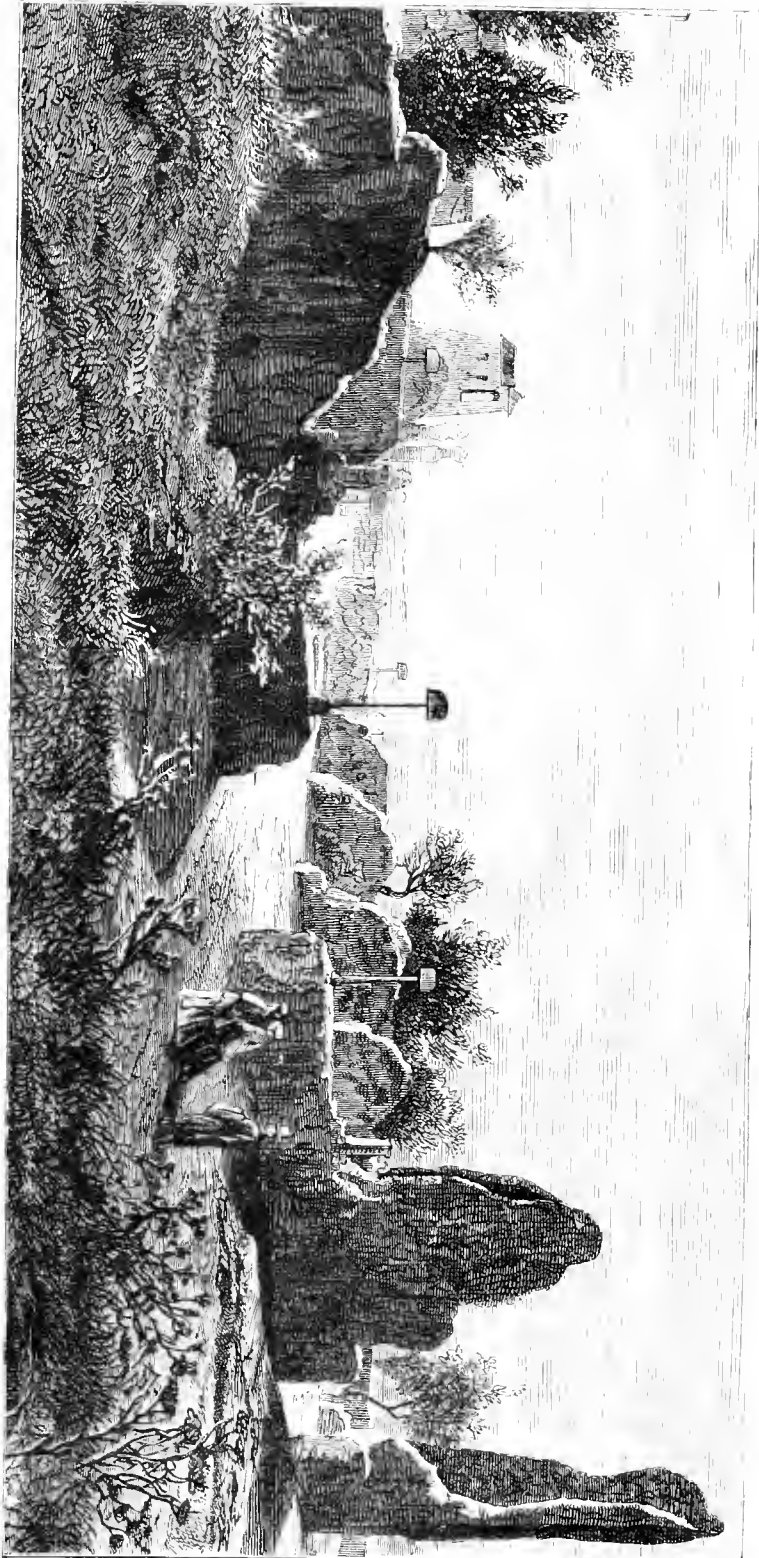
THE BIBLIOTHECA IN THE PALACE OF THE CÆSARS.

triumph, brought up the spoils of Jerusalem to the Capitol, and received there, all Rome making holiday, the solemn thanks of the S.P.Q.R. The hill is about one hundred feet high. It towered above some of the temples in the Forum. The Tarpeian Rock is hard at hand, from whose steep traitors were hurled. That was the famous leap that "cured all ambition." There is a garden there now, and on the fatal edge wild flowers blossom, and speed-well and forget-me-nots peep out in tufts from crannies half-way down the cliff. It looks as smiling and innocent as if blood had never been spilt there. The church of St. John Lateran<sup>7</sup> marks the slope of the Cœlian Hill, and the swell of the Esquiline may be roughly guessed from the spot marked,<sup>38</sup> where St. Maria Maggiore stands. The Quirinal is in-

licated by the palace lately of the Pope now of the King.<sup>56</sup> And, lastly, the Viminal, a difficult position to make out, lies between the Quirinal and Esquiline.

These, then, are the famous seven hills included in the walls of Servius Tullius, from which Rome took the name of the seven-hilled city. In later times, of course, other hills were included, Montes Mario, Vatican, Pincio, etc. The summits of the seven hills belonged to patricians, and were in those days covered with gardens and temples. Among the stiling lanes, choked-up alleys, and lofty houses of old Rome—for there were no *streets* then, in our sense of the word—these hilltops must have been as pleasant oases, where the citizen might inhale the fresh sunset air, and look down on the fevered city.

RUINS OF THE PALACE OF THE CÆSARS.



About the Forum the chiefest of Rome's recollections gather. From the Rostrum, a kind of open-air Westminster Hall, near the Temple of Jupiter Tonans,<sup>33</sup> the great causes were pleaded; a crowd spell-bound beneath, and groups on the marble steps of porticoes within hearing.

"Yes, and in yon field below  
A thousand years of silenced factions sleep.  
The Forum, where the immortal accents flow,  
And still the eloquent air breathes—burns with Cicero."

Perhaps a more startling remembrance is, that the holy things from the Temple at Jerusalem passed captive over those very flags. Titus's Arch<sup>32</sup> on the Summa Sacra Via, the highest spot of the road, records that fact on its frieze. The sculptures on this, one of the most interesting of Roman monuments, are nearly perfect.



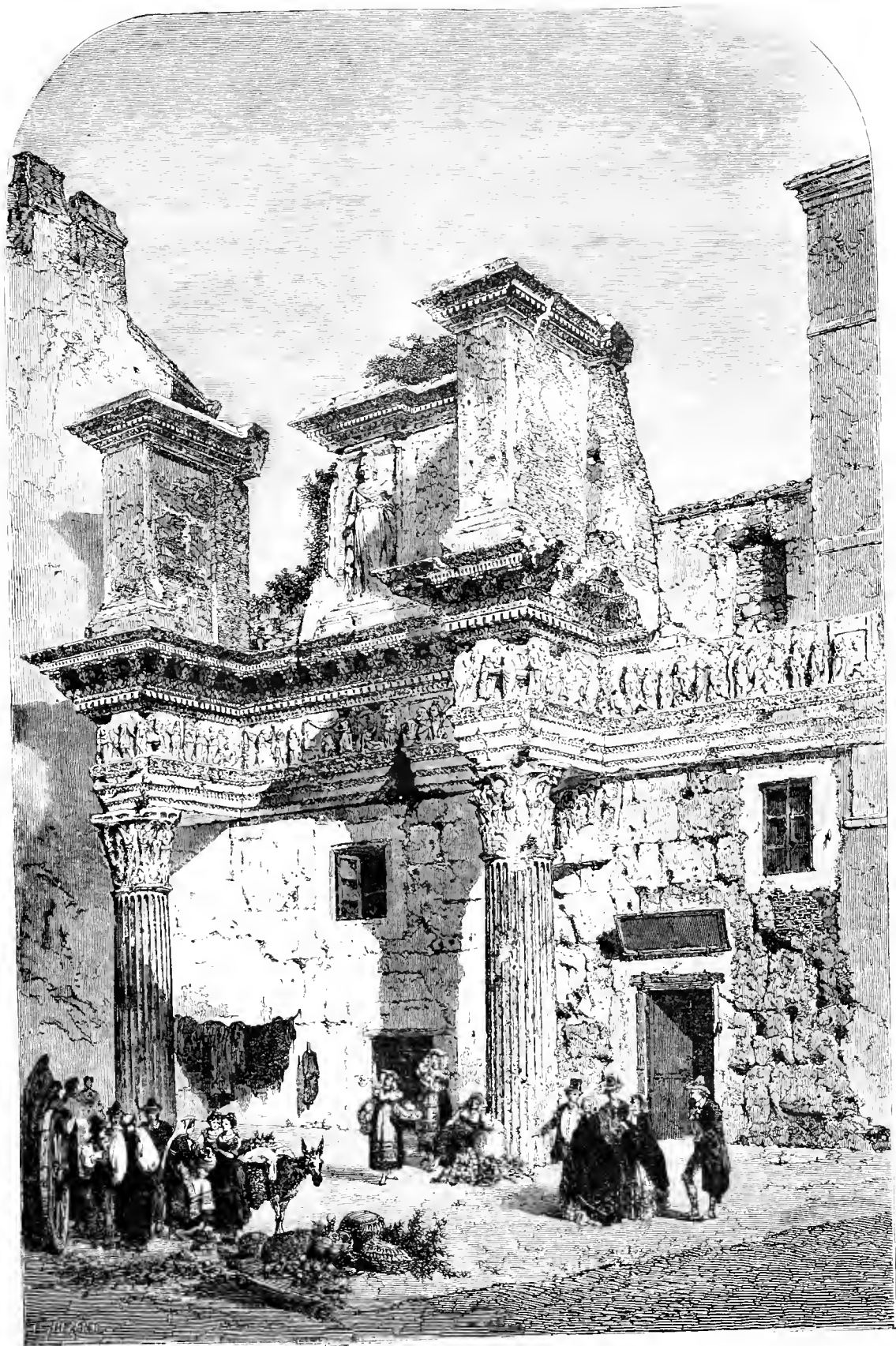
ARCH OF CONSTANTINE.

Near the Arch of Titus stands that of Constantine.<sup>31</sup> The imposing size and fine proportions of this triumphal arch make it one of the finest in the world. But the work of destruction and reconstruction out of former edifices had begun so far back as the reign of the first Christian emperor; and it is thought by many archæologists that this ought rather to be called the Arch of Trajan. It is certain that a large part of the decorations belong

to the earlier period; and it is doubtful whether the conqueror of Maxentius simply plundered the arch of his predecessor, or appropriated it *en masse*.

From Titus's Arch the Sacra Via runs in a gentle descent on to the Colosseum.<sup>30</sup> We are still on ground teeming with recollections. Let us go back a few years. St. Paul was in Rome. Christianity was already recognised as a thing to be persecuted. Nero, from his housetop, had fiddled to the burning of Rome, in some drunken dream that he beheld Troy in flames. From out of the chaos he cleared a space, and built himself a lordly pleasure-house within a sling's cast from this spot. The Golden House of Nero, it was called. His colossal statue of bronze, 120 feet high, stood in the vestibule. Gardens ran down to the hollow where now is the Colosseum. In that dip he made him an artificial lake, on whose banks clusters of houses were set to represent small cities. The slopes of the Cælian and Esquiline adjacent were converted into vineyards, that the illusion of a country view might be complete. In this abode of magnificent wickedness was all that art could devise to produce pleasure; and on the terrace walks, on some nights of revel, Christians wrapped in pitch were burnt as beacons to light up the scene.





THE TEMPLE OF MINERVA.



He died. By-and-by the artificial lake was drained. Titus began building the Colosseum in its bed. Many thousand captive Jews are said to have been employed on it. It seated eighty thousand people. One hundred days did the dedication festival last. There were combats of storks, of elephants, of bulls, and of men. Five thousand wild beasts fought with gladiators, and with one another. Finally a volume of water was let into the arena by sluices, and a combat of ships of war took place.

The Colosseum, however, must have been a baby to the Circus Maximus, vestiges of which still are manifest in the valley between the Palatine<sup>29</sup> and Aventine hills,<sup>30</sup> the scene of the rape of the Sabines. The Circus Maximus existed in the time of the Republic. Julius Cæsar rebuilt it, and the emperors till Constantine kept it in splendour. So vast was it, that one can hardly picture it in the mind. An oval, nearly half a mile long, by 900 feet broad, with seats for half a million of people, who, looking up, saw Cæsar's Halls towering above them on one side, on the other those on the Aventine. It was chiefly for chariot races and foot races—the kind of circus St. Paul had in mind (Heb. xii. 1), whose cloud of witnesses spurred on contending racers to the goal. Down the centre ran what was called a *spina*, or back-bone, of narrow gardens, of fountains, and statuary, and the racers circled round it. Two Egyptian obelisks were planted at the ends of the *spina*. One of them is now in the Piazza dell Popolo,<sup>45</sup> the other stands in front of the Lateran.<sup>47</sup> This last Constantine brought from Egypt, in a vessel of three hundred oars. It is a monolith of granite, 105 feet high, weighing 450 tons. The Broken Bridge,<sup>46</sup> built by Scipio Africanus B.C. 200, from which Heliogabalus was cast into the Tiber, is now used—that is, the broken arches of it—to support a modern suspension bridge near the old temple of Fortuna Virilis.<sup>49</sup>

The piers of the famous bridge Sublicius, familiar to us in Macaulay's lay,



IN THE TEMPLE OF AUGUSTUS.

which was kept by Horatius Cocles and his two brethren single-handed against the army of Porsenna, may still be seen when the Tiber is at low ebb near the

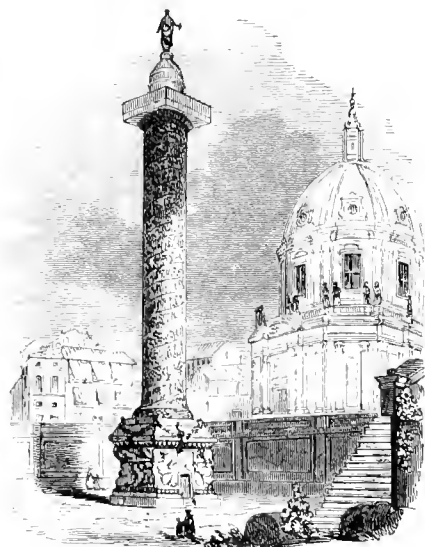
spot marked.<sup>23</sup> Next turn to<sup>17</sup> the mouth of the old sewer which drained Rome 600 years before Christ. It is built of such splendid masonry that even now it stands firm as when its foundations were laid. Near it stands the temple of Vesta,<sup>18</sup> one of the most interesting ruins in Rome.

The island in the Tiber<sup>15</sup> was sacred to Esculapius. The story is that about B.C. 300, in obedience to a Sibylline oracle, the Romans sent for Esculapius to Rome. The ambassadors returned in a vessel with the statue of the god. A serpent was found hidden among the cordage. They took it for the serpent of Esculapius, and thought that the god had himself accompanied them in the ship they had travelled in. When they got up the Tiber the serpent escaped and hid

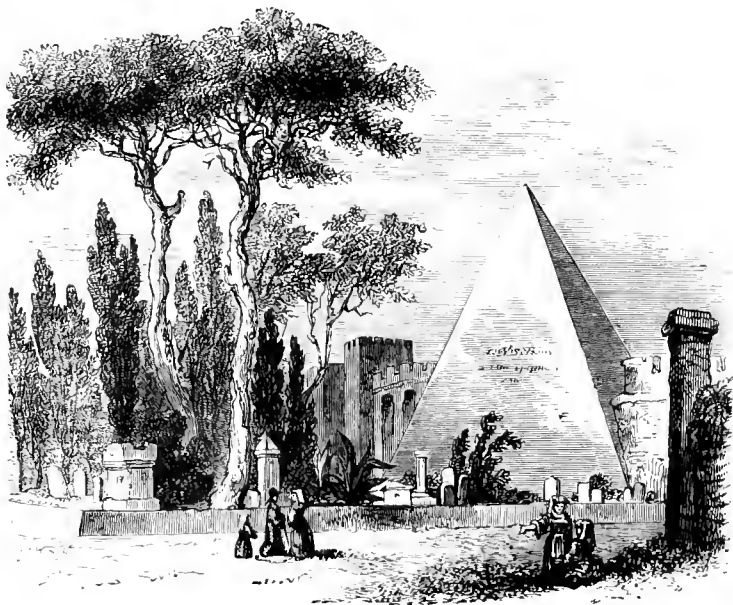
himself among the rushes of this island. There they built a temple, and cut the island itself into the form of a ship, coating its sides with strong masonry, adding prow, stern, and all, so that it looked like a giant vessel in mid-stream.

Trajan's Column,<sup>36</sup> erected A.D. 117, a noble work of art, on whose spiral bas-reliefs of marble are carved no less than two thousand five hundred human figures, is now surmounted by the bronze figure of St. Peter.

The Pantheon of Agrippa,<sup>49</sup> built B.C. 27, is a circular temple elegantly proportioned, surmounted by perhaps the most magnificent dome in the world. Time seems to be at peace with the Pantheon. Spite of its age, it is as perfect as Westminster Abbey.



COLUMN OF TRAJAN.



THE ENGLISH CEMETERY, AND PYRAMID OF CAIUS CESTIUS.

By the gate of St. Paul, near the pyramid of Caius Cestius,<sup>25</sup> who about the time of Christ mimicked the Pharaohs in this his sepulchre, is the English burying-place. It is a kind of grassy upland beneath the old Aurelian wall, where flowers and English cemetery creepers luxuriate in southern wantonness over the memorials of English dead.\*

We now proceed to give more detailed descriptions of the principal edifices glanced at in this brief sketch.

The remains of the Regal and Republican period are few and unimportant. The destruction of the city by the Gauls (B.C. 388) may partly account for this. But it is probable that there was little of architectural magnificence before the time of Augustus, who "found Rome of brick and left it of marble." The early Romans had neither the means, the genius, nor the inclination to erect stately edifices. Engaged in wars either of conquest or of self-defence, they had no leisure for architectural display. For many generations after the date of its mythical founder, Rome was but a cluster of villages on the summits of the neighbouring hills which rose, side by side, from the level plain of the Campagna. Sanitary and military considerations combined to dictate the selection of an elevated site easily to be defended against attack, and raised above the malaria of the lowlands. Many such villages and small towns may still be seen in the old Etrurian territory, each,

"Like an eagle's nest,  
Perched on a crest  
Of purple Apennine."

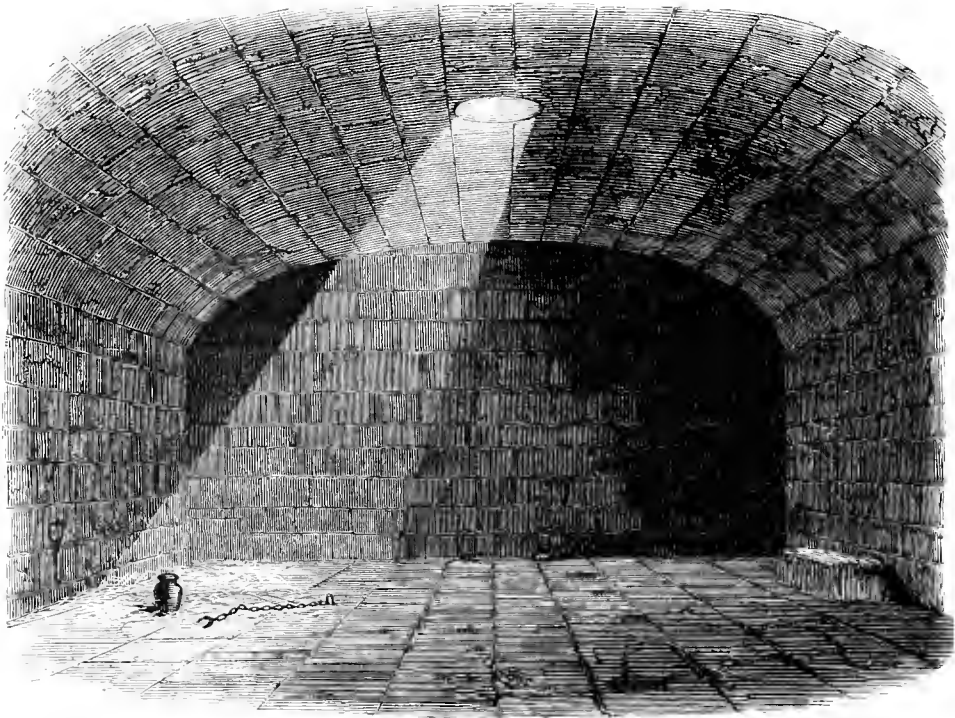
The language of Montesquieu was probably not exaggerated. "Rome at first was not a city, but it rather resembled one of those villages which we still find in the Crimea: a collection of huts and enclosures for storing grain and folding cattle. Streets there were none, unless we give that name to the roadways which ran between dwellings placed without order and regularity. The inhabitants, always occupied in their daily tasks, or in the public places, were scarcely ever at home."†

Some of the structures of Regal Rome, however, yet remain. One of these is the Cloaca Maxima, just mentioned, a sewer so solidly constructed that it is used for its original purpose at the present day, and it may continue to be so for ages. The massive stones employed in the old Etruscan walls may be seen at the foot of the Palatine and the Capitoline hills. One of the most interesting relics of this period is the old Mamertine Prison, constructed by Ancus Martius, and described by Livy and Sallust. Walls built of enormous blocks of stone form a cell cold, and dark, and damp. But in the floor is a small opening leading down into a yet more horrible dungeon. Sallust speaks of it as "a place about ten feet deep, surrounded by walls, with a vaulted roof

\* Revised and abridged from a *Bird's-Eye View of Rome in the Leisure Hour*.

† *Considérations sur les causes de la grandeur et de la décadence des Romains*. Cap. i.

of stone above it. The filth, and darkness, and stench make it indeed terrible." Here Jugurtha was starved to death, the accomplices of Catiline were strangled, and Sejanus was executed.\* Tradition affirms that yet more illustrious sufferers were confined here. In this state prison it is said that the apostles Peter and Paul were immured. Of this, however, there is no evidence. And the papal legends, which so often invest even a probable tradition with incredible marvels, are not wanting here. An indentation in the wall is pointed out as having been made by the head of St. Peter when forcibly struck against it by the inhuman gaoler; and a spring of water which rises from the floor is declared



THE MAMERTINE PRISON.

to have burst miraculously from the rock for the baptism of his two guards, Processus and Martinian.

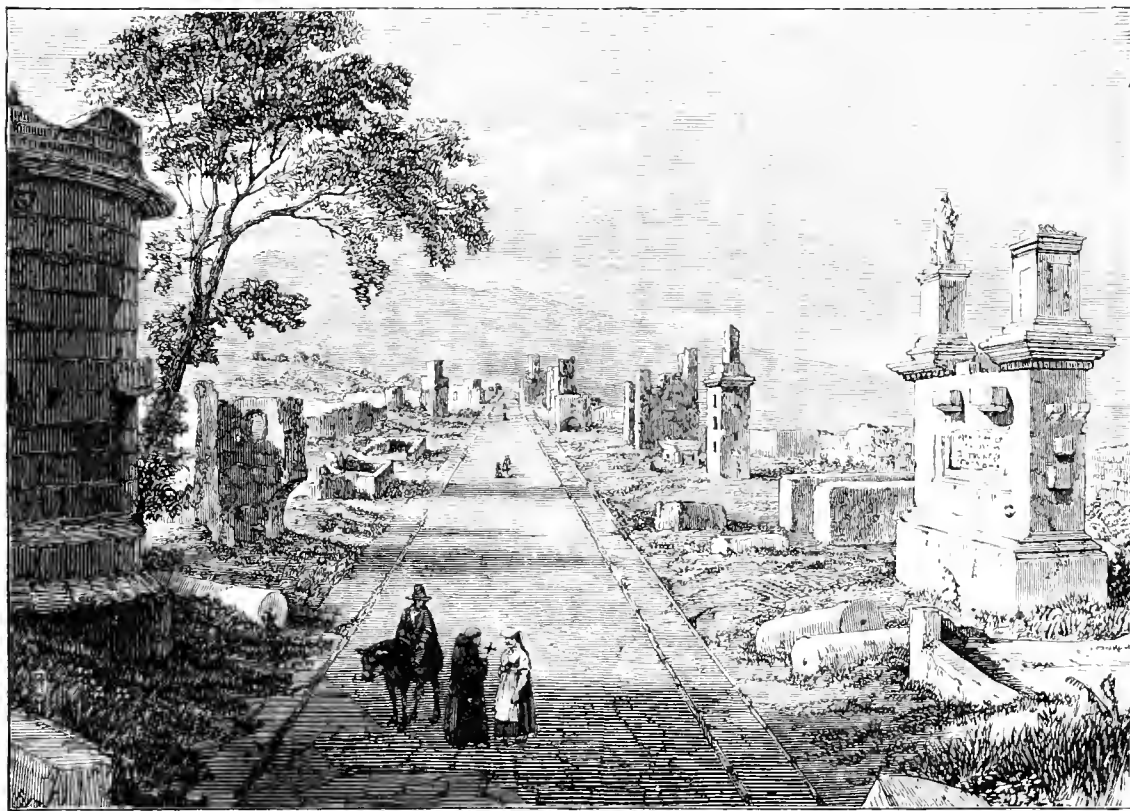
Whilst Scripture is silent upon the subject of St. Peter's residence in Rome, and there is no historical evidence in its favour, we know that St. Paul was twice a prisoner here. During his first imprisonment he was kept in his own hired house; but the second may have been, and probably was, more severe. It is therefore possible that the tradition which connects him with this horrible dungeon may have some foundation in truth. If so, it was amidst the chilly damp of this subterranean vault that "Paul, the aged," wrote to Timothy: "The

\* Recent excavations by Mr. Parker show that this dungeon was far more extensive than had previously been supposed.



cloak which I left at Troas, with Carpus, bring with thee." Here, too, the joyful words were written: "I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day."

If we cannot with certainty connect the great apostle of the Gentiles with the Mamertine prison, we need not hesitate to associate his memory with one of the noblest remains of Republican Rome—the Appian Way. This



ON THE APPIAN WAY.

magnificent road, constructed by Appius Claudius (A.U.C. 442), led southwards, first to Capua, and was afterwards continued to Brundisium, the modern Brindisi. But it was joined at Capua by another road from Puteoli, the modern Pozzuoli, near Naples.\* It was formed of immense blocks of stone, so admirably fitted together, that after the lapse of eight hundred years the roadway seemed as perfect as when first formed; and there is no reason to doubt that in many places it is now exactly as it was when trodden by the feet of St. Paul. The

\* One of the most interesting chapters in Conybeare and Howson's *Life and Epistles of St. Paul* is that which illustrates the journey of the apostle along this road from Puteoli to Rome.



classical scholar, as he traverses the time-worn pavement, will recall the journey of Horace to Brundisium. But a far deeper interest attaches to that described by the inspired historian: "And so we went toward Rome. And when the brethren heard of us, they came to meet us as far as Appii Forum and the Three Taverns; whom when Paul saw, he thanked God, and took courage. And when we came to Rome, the centurion delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard: but Paul was suffered to dwell by himself, with a soldier that kept him."\* Many a victorious general had marched in triumph at the head of his troops along the Appian Way. But that prisoner, with his little band of friends, was advancing to a nobler victory, and could confidently exclaim, "Now thanks be unto God, who always causeth us to triumph in Christ."† It was an interesting illustration of the permanence of the apostle's influence that when entering Rome a few months ago by the Appian Way, I found the Italian soldier on guard intently reading Paul's Epistle to the Romans.

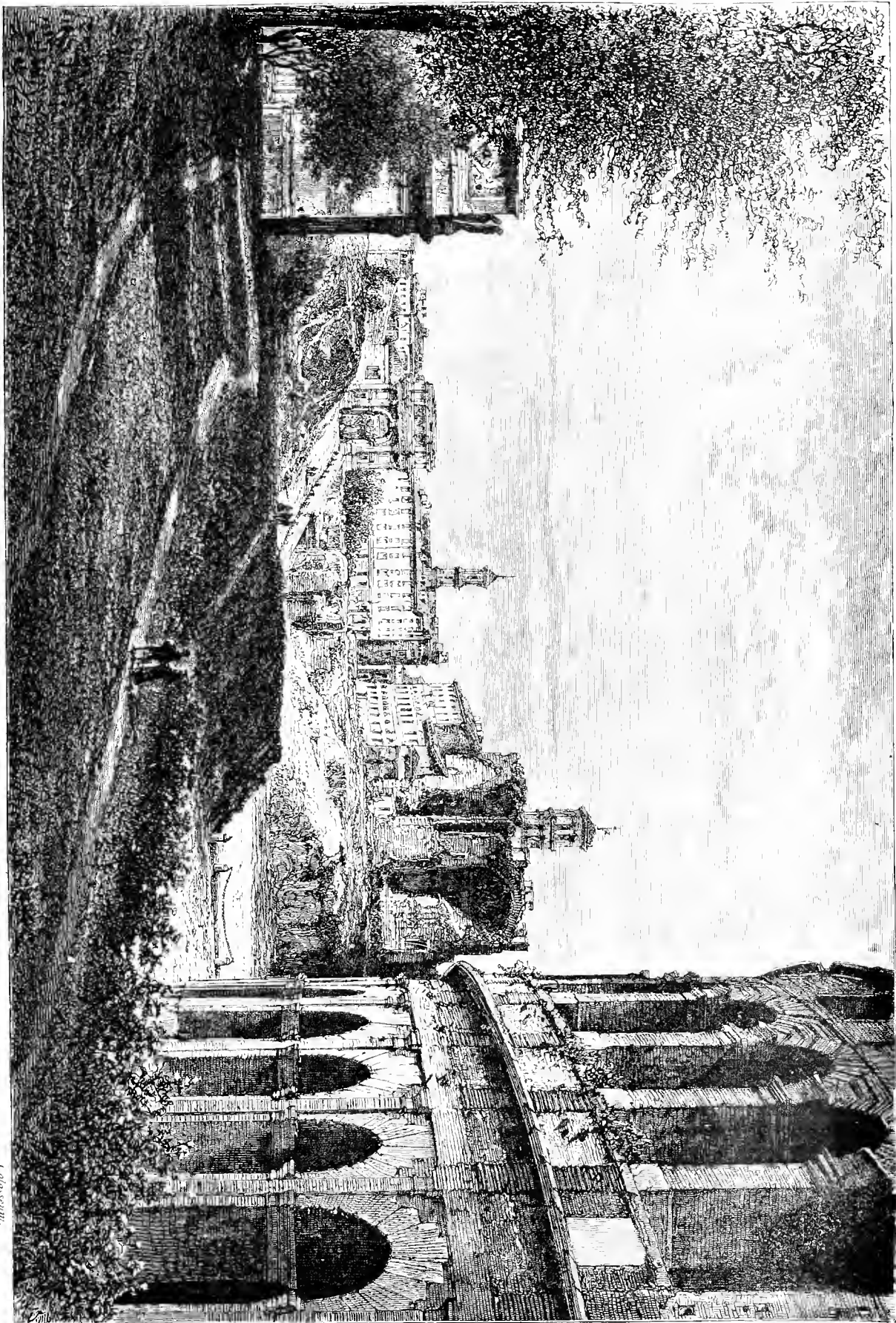
It is the remains of Imperial Rome which, by their grandeur and extent, fill the visitor with wonder; and the most important of these gather round the Forum as their centre. The extensive excavations carried on here for some years past, whilst they almost daily lay bare some new object of interest, have so changed its aspect that visitors, returning after a long absence, scarcely recognise old familiar spots. The Colosseum, the Arches of Titus, of Septimius Severus, and of Constantine, and the modern edifice on the summit of the Capitol, of course remain the same. But the immense mass of *débris* beneath which the Forum itself lay buried is being removed, and we can now tread the very pavement trodden by the feet of Cicero, or walk on the Via Sacra along which the Triumph passed to the Capitol.

Standing near the foot of the Cœlian, at the end of the Sacra Via farthest from the modern city, we have on our right the Colosseum, on our left the Arch of Constantine; in front of us is the Arch of Titus: the Temple of Venus, and the Basilica of Constantine, with the church of St. Francesca Romana built out of their ruins, are seen between the Capitol and the Colosseum.

Beyond the Arch of Titus, between it and the Capitol, is the Forum Romanum. It is crowded with the relics of temples, basilicas, arches, and columns. For three centuries it has been the battle-field of antiquarians, who have contended hotly for their various theories as to the original design of the ruins which cover the narrow space. Recent excavations have gone far to settle many of these questions, but much yet remains doubtful. Looking toward the Capitol, we have the Arch of Septimius Severus on our right. The three fluted columns are believed to have formed part of the Temple of Saturn. The eight granite columns on the left belonged to that of Vespasian. The pillar in the centre is that of Phocas. The tower in the background rises over the palace of the Senator on the summit of the Capitol.

\* Acts xxviii. 14-16.

† 2 Cor. ii. 14.



Arch of Constantine.

Arch of Trajan.

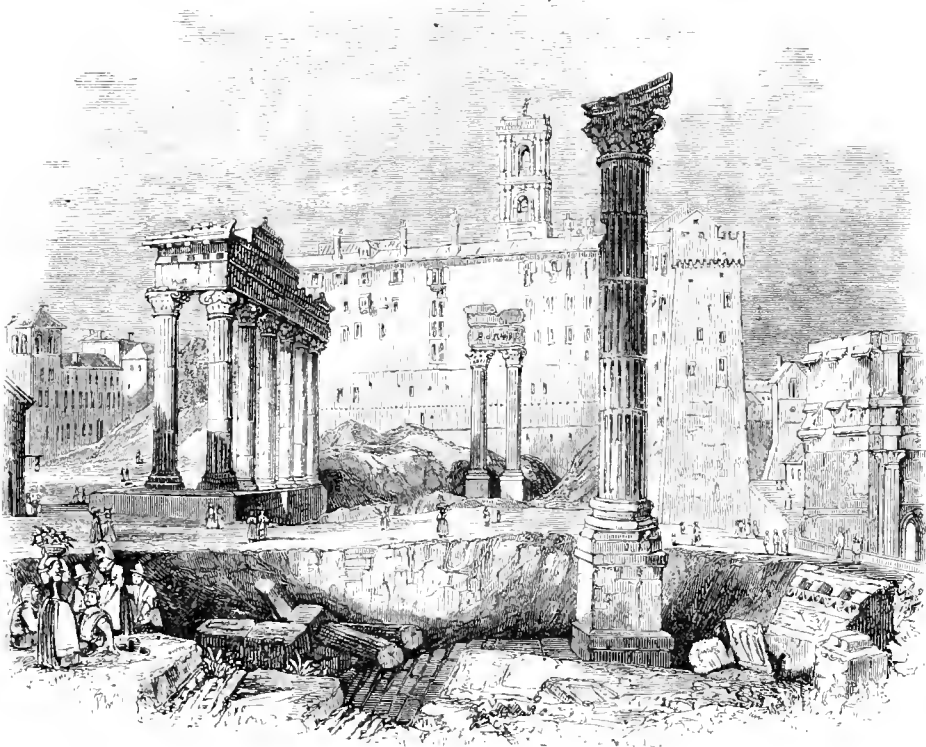
APPROACH TO THE FORUM FROM THE CELIAN.

Colosseum.



Surrounded by this bewildering maze of ruins, which overwhelm the visitor by their grandeur and extent, and remembering that this scene of desolation was once the very centre of all the glories of Imperial Rome, the words of Childe Harold come to the memory with irresistible force :

“The Niobe of nations! there she stands,  
Childless and crownless, in her voiceless woe ;  
An empty urn within her withered hands,  
Whose holy dust was scattered long ago ;  
The Scipios’ tomb contains no ashes now ;  
The very sepulchres lie tenantless  
Of their heroic dwellers : dost thou flow,  
Old Tiber ! through a marble wilderness ?  
Rise, with thy yellow waves, and mantle her distress.



IN THE FORUM LOOKING TOWARDS THE CAPITOL.

The Goth, the Christian, Time, War, Flood, and Fire,  
Have dealt upon the seven-hilled city's pride ;  
She saw her glories star by star expire,  
And up the steep barbarian monarchs ride,  
Where the car climbed the Capitol ; far and wide  
Temple and tower went down, nor left a site :  
Chaos of ruins ! who shall trace the void,  
O'er the dim fragments cast a lunar light,  
And say, 'Here was, or is,' where all is doubly night ?

## THE FORUM AND COLOSSEUM.

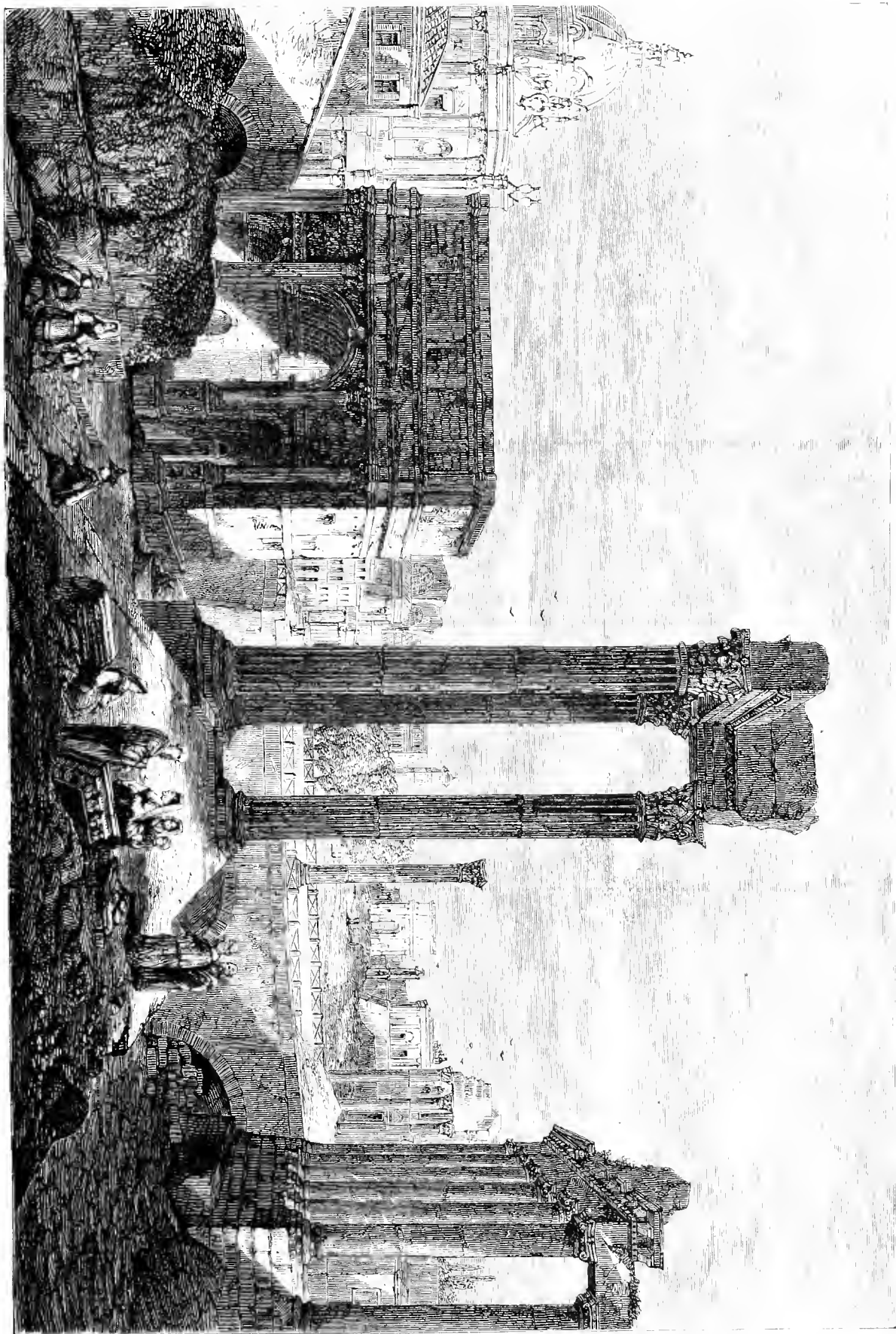
Alas! the lofty city! and alas!  
The trebly hundred triumphs! and the day  
When Brutus made the dagger's edge surpass  
The conqueror's sword in bearing fame away!  
Alas, for Tully's voice, and Virgil's lay,  
And Livy's pictured page!—but these shall be  
Her resurrection; all beside—decay.  
Alas, for Earth, for never shall we see  
That brightness in her eye she bore when Rome was free!"

Amongst the edifices in and around the Forum the Colosseum is the most impressive, both by its imposing mass and its historic interest. Though for centuries it served as a quarry out of which materials were dug for palaces and churches, it yet stands vast and imperishable, apparently justifying the proud boast:

"While stands the Coliseum, Rome shall stand;  
When falls the Coliseum, Rome shall fall;  
And when Rome falls—the World."

The building marks a period in the history of the city. After a time of civil war and confusion in the Empire, Vespasian came to the throne, and began the Flavian dynasty. He, with his son Titus, used the vacant spaces which were made partly by the fire and partly by Nero's selfish display for raising structures, a considerable part of which still remain, the most conspicuous being that which is called the Colosseum. Whether this name was given to the "Flavian Amphitheatre" from its colossal size, or from the Colossus of Nero, which stood near it, is a point on which scholars have disputed. However this question may be settled, it is to be regretted that the word has been so written for centuries as to disguise its derivation. The place chosen was a hollow between two of the hills on which Rome stood, and where Nero had caused a lake to be made near his Golden House. Augustus had intended to build an amphitheatre in the middle of the city; and Vespasian accomplished the work on a scale which was probably far beyond what was contemplated by Augustus. The building covered nearly six acres of ground. In form it is an oval, 620 feet in length externally, by 513 in breadth; and the vertical height is 157 feet. The splendour of the interior of this vast edifice may be gathered from a description quoted by Mr. Hemans from the Seventh Eclogue of Calpurnius. The podium was encrusted with costly marbles; net-work of gilt bronze supported by stakes and wheels of ivory guarded the spectators from the wild beasts; the spaces between the seats glittered with gold and gems; a portico carried round the entire building was resplendent with gilded columns; marble statues thronged the arcades; the awnings were of silk; marble tripods for burning perfumes were placed throughout the edifice; and fountains of fragrant waters sprinkled the spectators, diffusing delicious odours through the air.

Primitive Christianity is associated, in a peculiar and impressive manner,



RUINS OF THE FORUM FROM THE CAPITOL.



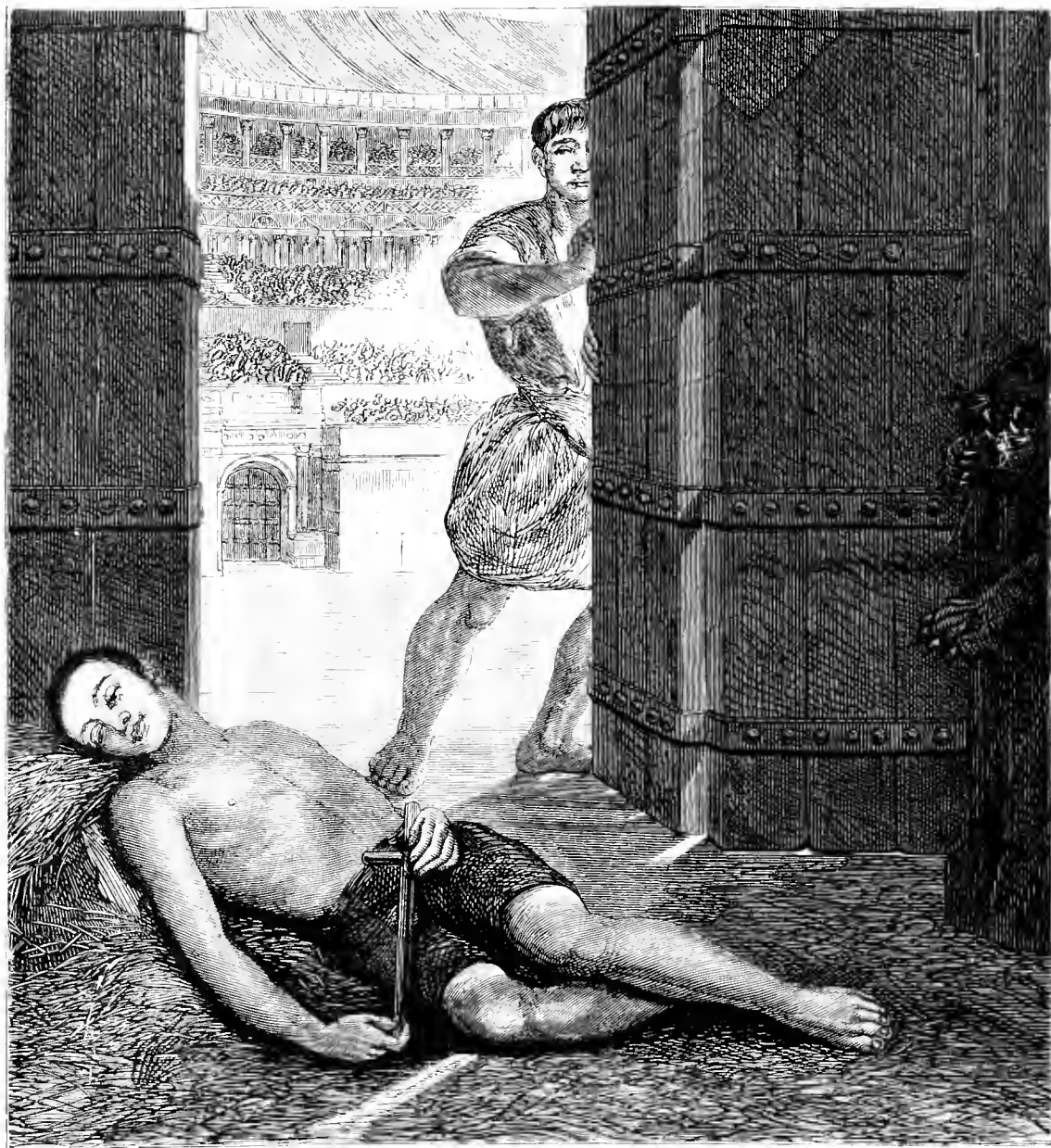


with Vespasian's great building. Our information concerning the earliest condition of the Christians in Rome must be drawn entirely from the Acts of the Apostles and the Epistles of St. Paul. Of the subsequent martyrdoms the Flavian Amphitheatre was often the scene, and is now become the great standing memorial. A large amount of untrustworthy legendary matter is no doubt mixed up with our narratives of these sufferings; but there is no difficulty in picturing to ourselves what really took place, and thus receiving into our minds most salutary impressions both of rebuke and of thankfulness.

First in the series of Christians who were given to wild beasts in the Roman Amphitheatre is Ignatius, bishop of Antioch. The record which is furnished to us of his route to Rome is peculiarly interesting, because he partly travelled in the footsteps of St. Paul. He is said to have crossed the mountains of Macedonia to Epidamnus on the Adriatic, and there to have embarked on shipboard again. When Puteoli was pointed out to him, his disappointment was great that the stormy weather would not allow him to land there, like his apostolic predecessor. On his way he had written to the Roman Christians in a spirit of eagerness for martyrdom which is not altogether unlike the tone of the apostle: "I dread lest your love should do me wrong. If ye are silent about me, then I shall go to God. If ye are too eager for my bodily safety, then I must begin again the race, which now is nearly finished. Suffer me to be the food of wild beasts, that by means of them I may reach God. Nay, rather encourage the beasts on, that they may become my tomb, and leave nothing of my body: lest, after I have fallen asleep, I be a burden to any for my funeral." His wish was almost literally accomplished, and very speedily after his arrival. The games, for which he was destined, were nearly ended, and he was hurried to the amphitheatre. "The beasts quickly despatched him, and so ravenously, that only the harder and more rugged bones were left." Such scenes were often re-enacted in Rome and various cities of the Empire. From the time when the Emperor Decius put notices on the walls that magistrates sparing the Christians would be punished, persecution grew more general and systematic, and at intervals raged violently. "The Christians to the lions!" became a common cry in times of panic and excitement.

This subject of Christian martyrdom must ever be our chief and cherished association with the Colosseum. The most celebrated descriptive passages in our language having reference to this ruin are by two writers, who in different ways were among the enemies of Christianity—Gibbon and Lord Byron. But we turn to another and later writer. There is a church called San Stefano Rotondo, with which tourists in Rome are familiar, and on the walls of which are represented the most eminent martyrdoms. Dr. Arnold, who "in his latest studies of early Christian history, dwelt with an increasing sympathy and admiration on the endurance and self-devotion of the early martyrs, and on the instruction to be derived from contemplating an age when martyrdom was a real thing, to which every Christian might without any remarkable accident be

exposed," writes thus, in one of his Travelling Journals, concerning this church : "No doubt many of the particular stories thus painted will bear no critical examination : it is likely enough, too, that Gibbon has truly accused the general

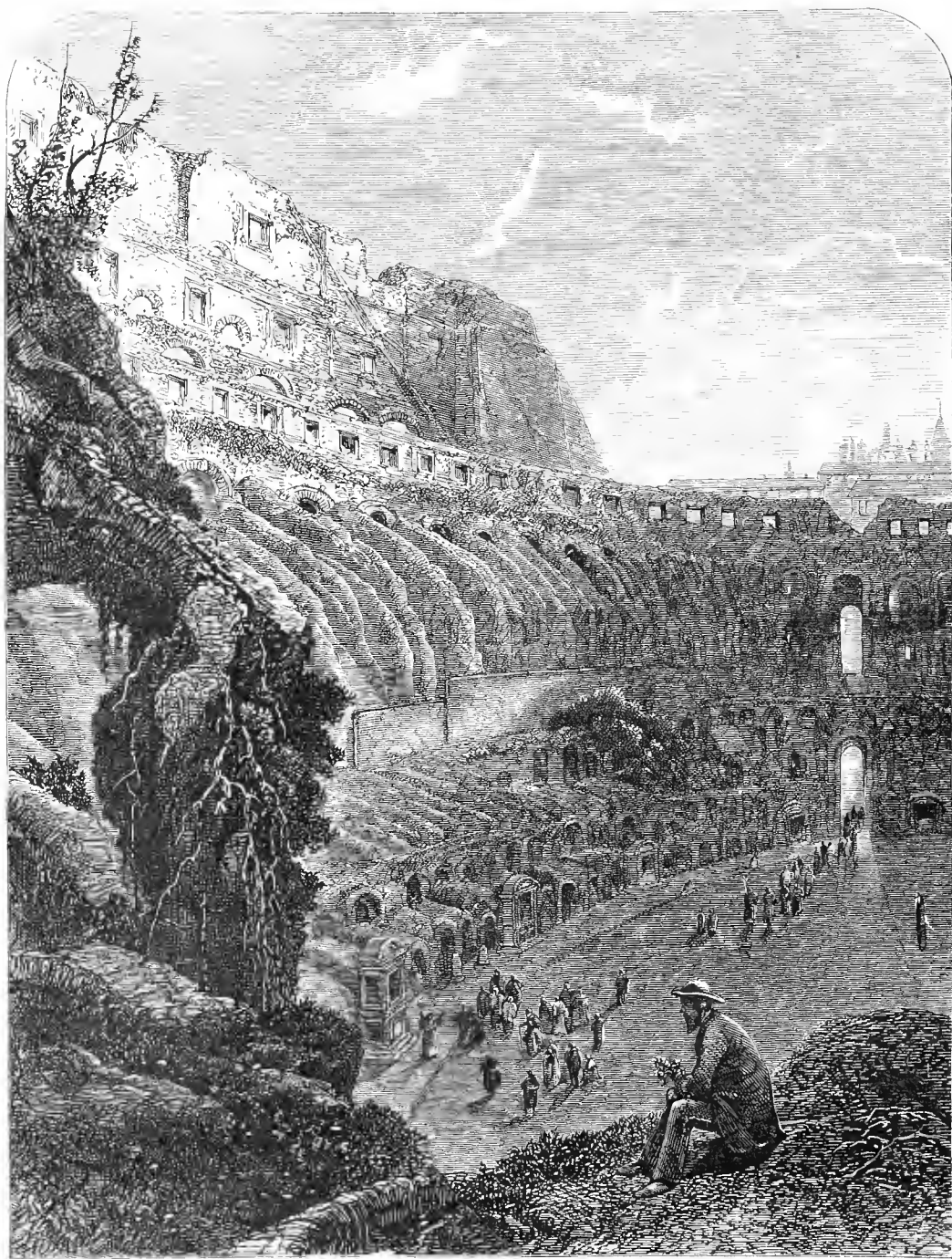


"THE CHRISTIANS TO THE LIONS!"

*From the Painting by Slingensyer.*

statements of exaggeration. But this is a thankless labour, such as Lingard and others have undertaken with respect to the St. Bartholomew massacre. Divide the sum total of reported martyrs by twenty,—by fifty if you will,—but



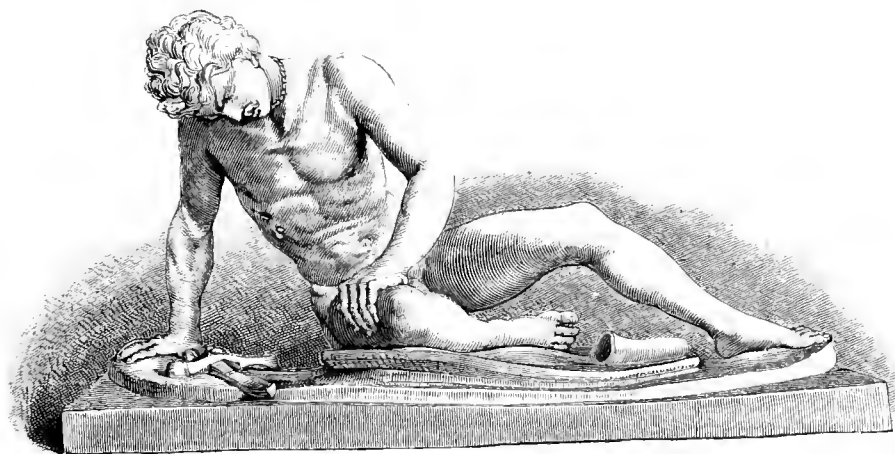


IN THE COLOSSEUM AT EVENING.

after all you have a number of persons, of all ages and sexes, suffering cruel torments and death for conscience sake, and for Christ's, and by their sufferings manifestly, with God's blessing, ensuring the triumph of Christ's gospel. Neither do I think that we consider the excellence of this martyr spirit half enough. I do not think that pleasure is a sin ; yet surely the contemplation of suffering for Christ's sake is a thing most needful for us in our days, from whom in our daily life suffering seems so far removed. And as God's grace enabled rich and delicate persons, women, and even children, to endure all extremities of pain and reproach in times past, so there is the same grace no less mighty now ; and if we do not close ourselves against it, it might in us be no less glorified in a time of trial. Pictures of martyrdoms are not to be sneered at, nor yet to be looked on as a mere excitement,—but a sober reminder to us of what Satan can do to hurt, and what Christ's grace can enable the weakest of His people to bear."

Lord Byron's lines, often quoted though they have been, may yet again find a place here :

"And here the buzz of eager nations ran  
In murmured pity, or loud-roared applause.  
As man was slaughtered by his fellow man.  
And wherefore slaughtered? wherefore, but because  
Such were the bloody circus' genial laws,  
And the imperial pleasure.—Wherefore not?  
What matters where we fall to fill the maws  
Of worms—on battle-plains or listed spot?  
Both are but theatres where the chief actors rot.



THE DYING GLADIATOR.

I see before me the Gladiator lie:  
He leans upon his hand—his manly brow  
Consents to death, but conquers agony,  
And his drooped head sinks gradually low,  
And through his side the last drops, ebbing slow

## THE GLADIATOR.

From the red gash, fall heavy, one by one,  
Like the first of a thunder shower; and now  
The arena swims around him—he is gone,  
Ere ceased the inhuman shout which hailed the wretch who won.

He heard it, but he heeded not—his eyes  
Were with his heart, and that was far away;  
He recked not of the life he lost nor prize,  
But where his rude hut by the Danube lay,  
*There* were his young barbarians all at play,  
*There* was their Dacian mother—he, their sire,  
Butchered to make a Roman holiday—  
All this rushed with his blood.—Shall he expire,  
And unavenged? Arise! ye Goths, and glut your ire!

But here, where Murder breathed her bloody steam;  
And here, where buzzing nations choked the ways  
And roared or murmured like a mountain stream,  
Dashing or winding as its torrent strays;  
Here, where the Roman million's blame or praise  
Was death or life, the playthings of a crowd,  
My voice sounds much—and fall the stars' faint rays  
On the arena void—seats crushed—walls bowed—  
And galleries, where my steps seem echoes strangely loud.

A ruin—yet what ruin! from its mass  
Walls, palaces, half cities have been reared;  
Yet oft the enormous skeleton ye pass,  
And marvel where the spoil could have appeared.  
Hath it indeed been plundered or but cleared?  
Alas! developed, opens the decay,  
When the colossal fabric's form is neared:  
It will not bear the brightness of the day,  
Which streams too much on all years, man, have left away.

But when the rising moon begins to climb  
Its topmost arch, and gently pauses there;  
When the stars twinkle through the loops of time,  
And the low night-breeze waves along the air,  
The garland forest, which the grey walls wear,  
Like laurels on the bald first Cæsar's head;  
When the light shines serene but doth not glare,  
Then in this magic circle raise the dead:  
Heroes have trod this spot, 'tis on their dust ye tread."

Very striking is it to note that this arena, so often drenched with the blood of Christian martyrs, is now consecrated as a church. In the centre stands a plain cross, and round the walls are fourteen shrines, before which kneeling worshippers may often be seen. In the worship thus offered there is doubtless much of superstition—for when, in the year 1750, Pope Benedict xiv. dedicated the ruins to the memory of the Christian martyrs, he proclaimed an

indulgence of two hundred days for every act of devotion performed there. But whilst lamenting the apostacy of Rome from the faith of the primitive Church, we may, nevertheless, see an outward and visible sign of the victory of the cross over that paganism which here erected its most imposing and characteristic monument.

But one more glance may be taken at the Colosseum, before we finally leave it. The calm repose and solitude of this ruin is very impressive, when we call to mind the excited multitudes which once filled it, and the hideous things which they witnessed. Nature has now patiently decked these gigantic



SHRINES IN THE COLOSSEUM.

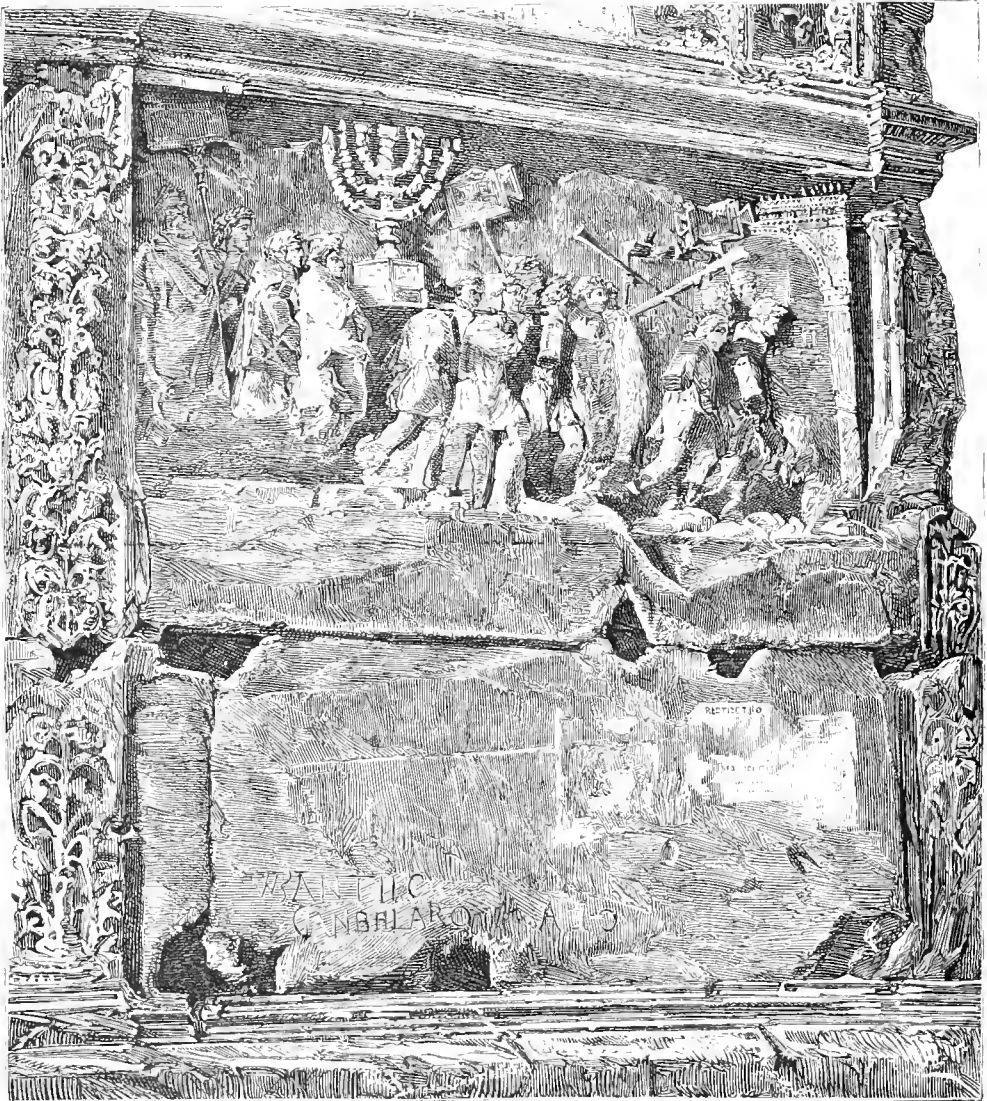
Roman arches with an infinite variety of shrubs and flowers; so that the naturalist as well as the antiquarian finds there an opportunity for exercising his inquiry; and books have even been published on the Flora of the Colosseum. One by Dr. Deakin records the names of four hundred and twenty species of plants found within the walls.

Little inferior in interest to the Colosseum, though far less impressive architecturally, is the Arch of Titus, commemorating his triumph over the Jews. It was erected, or at least completed, after the death of Titus, as is shown by the epithet *Divo* ascribed to him. It consists of a single arch of Grecian marble



## THE ARCH OF TITUS.

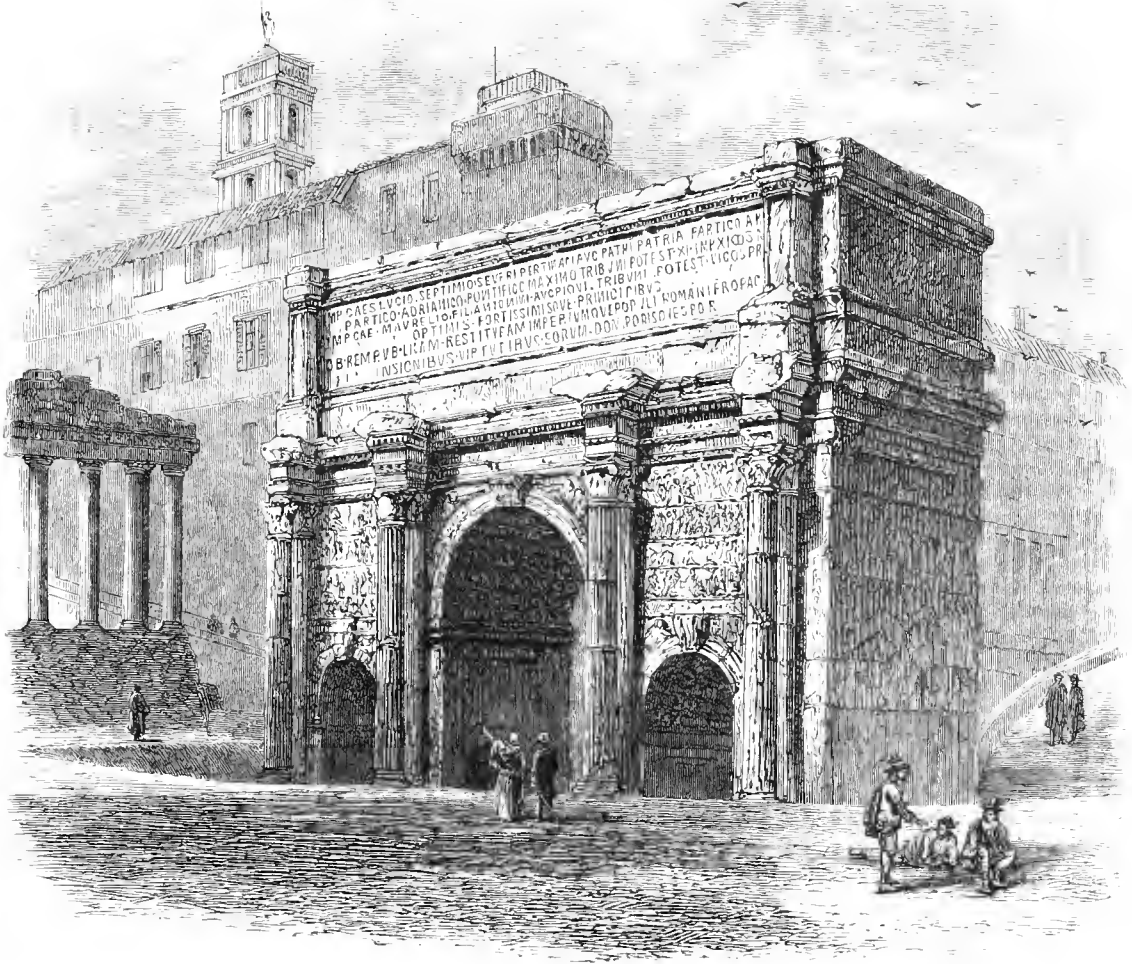
of exquisite proportions, with fluted columns on each side. The frieze, which gives it its special interest and value, is on the right hand side passing under the arch, going towards the Colosseum. It represents the triumphal procession with captive Jews, the silver trumpets, the tables of shew-bread, and the golden candle-



FRIEZE FROM THE ARCH OF TITUS.

stick with its seven branches. The candlestick itself is said to have been thrown into the Tiber from the Milvian Bridge, on the occasion of the battle between Maxentius and Constantine. Should the proposal to turn the course of the Tiber be carried into effect, it is not impossible that this precious relic may yet be recovered. Amongst the indignities inflicted upon the Jews in Rome,

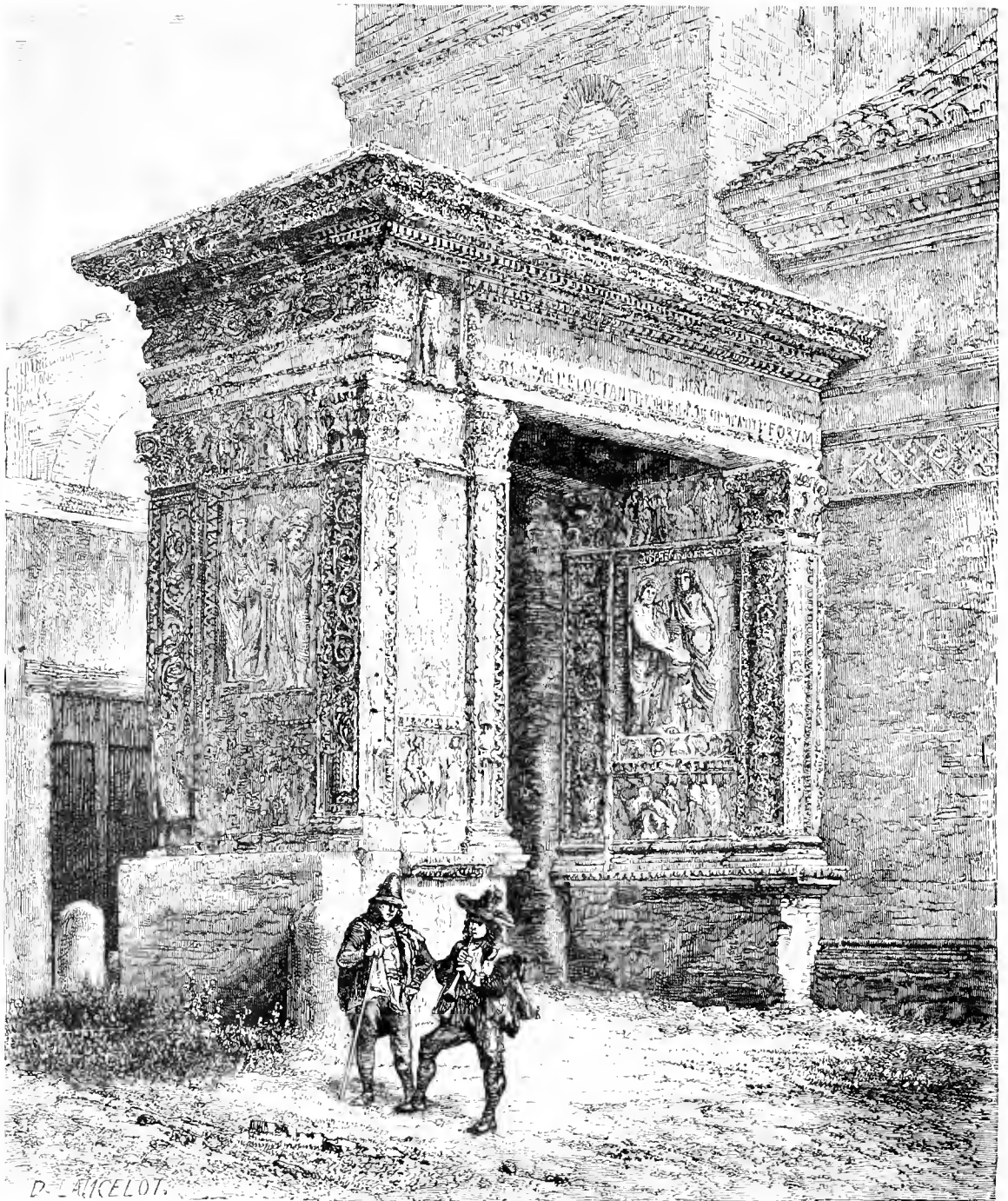
was the fact that on the accession of each new pope, they were compelled to await him at the Arch of Titus, on his way to be installed at the Lateran, present to him a copy of the Pentateuch, and swear allegiance to his government. This ceremony was dispensed with at the installation of Pio Nono. It is the common belief in Rome that no Jew will ever pass under the arch which celebrates the destruction of his nation.



ARCH OF SEPTIMIUS SEVERUS.

There are two arches in honour of Septimius Severus. The one in the Forum at the foot of the Capitol has been already referred to. It was erected to the emperor and his sons Caracalla and Geta, in commemoration of the victory over the Parthians, Persians, and Adiabeni. Originally it was surmounted by a chariot of bronze, drawn by six horses, in which stood a figure of Septimius

ARCHES OF SEPTIMIUS SEVERUS.

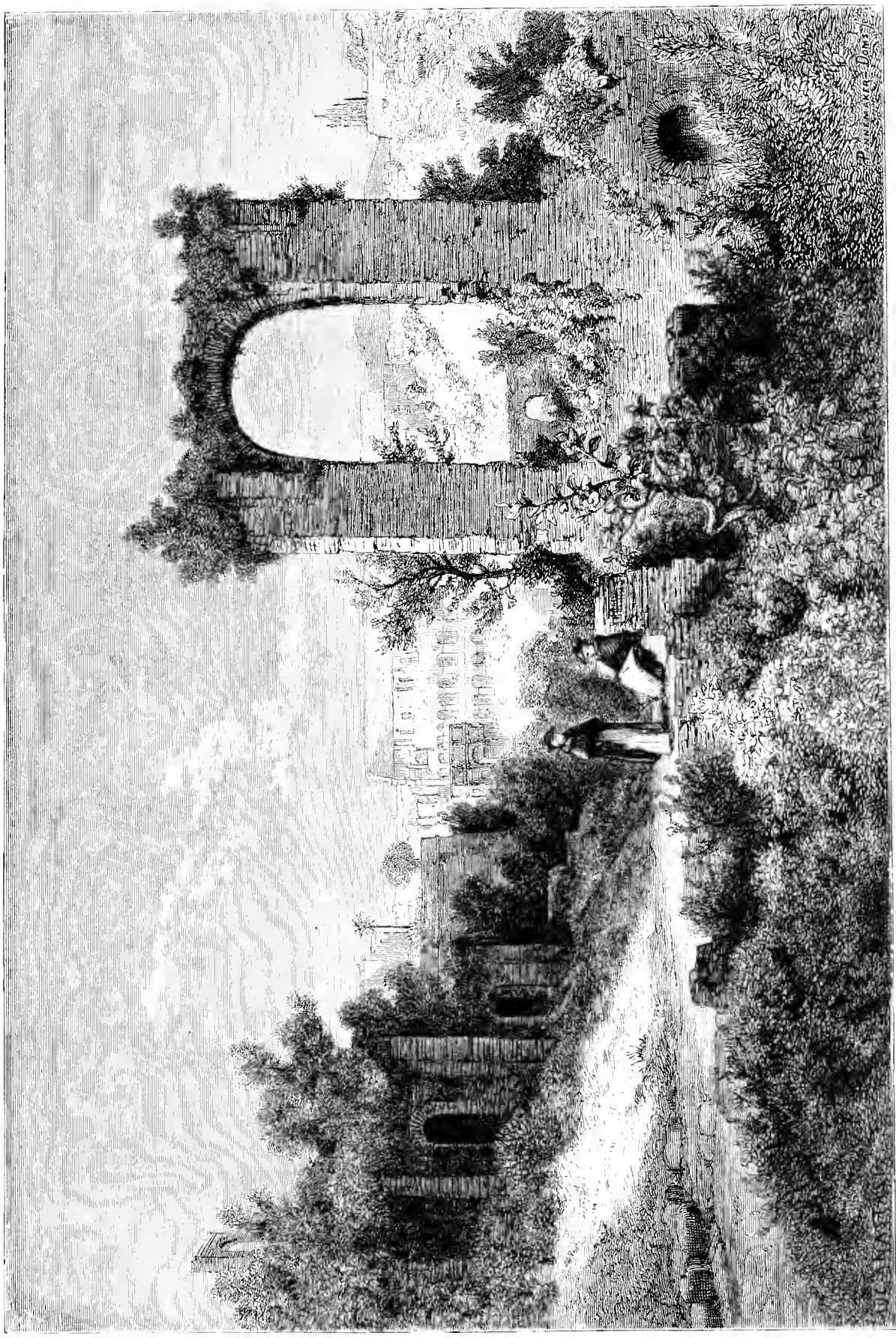


ARCUS ARGENTARIUS, OR MONEY CHANGERS' ARCH.  
Near the Church of San Giorgio in Velabro.

Severus, crowned by victory. The bas-reliefs with which it is richly decorated represent various incidents in the campaign.





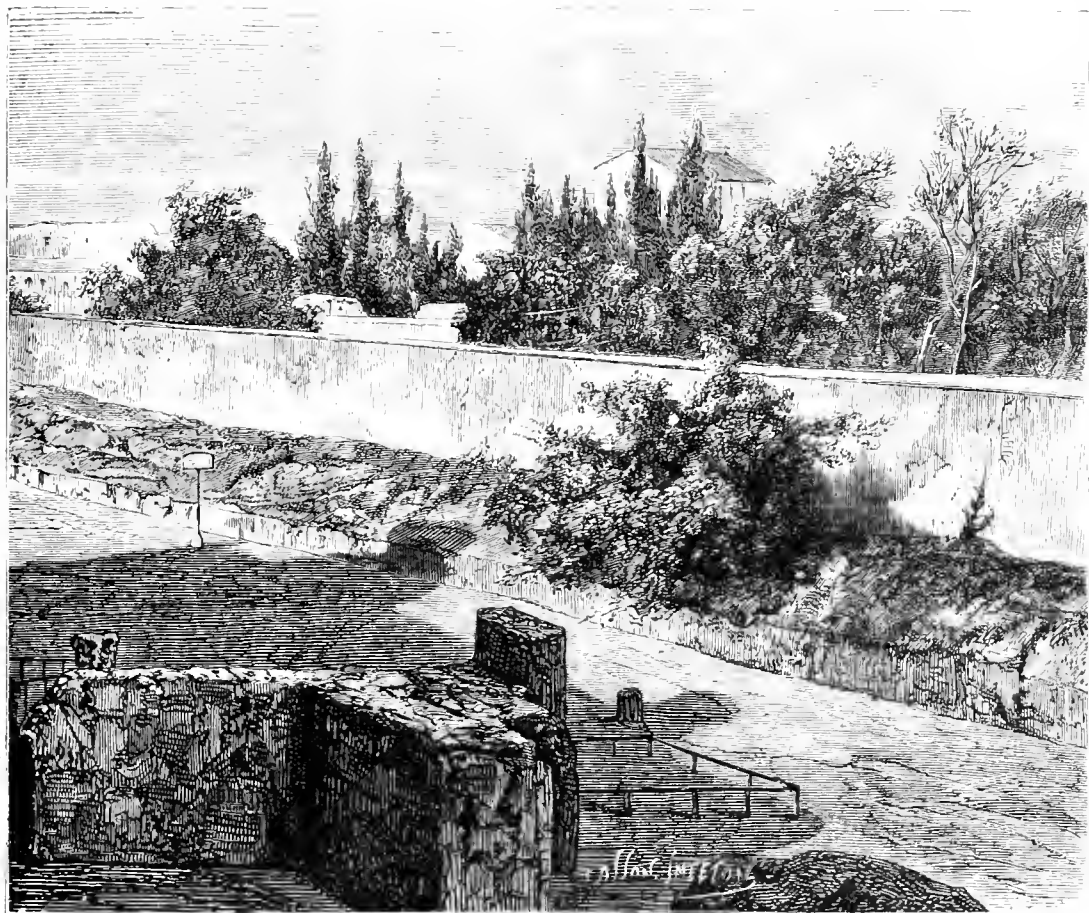


THE PALATINE FROM THE AVENTINE.

## THE PALATINE.

The other arch in honour of the Emperor Severus was in the Forum Boarium, or Cattle Market, near the Tiber. An inscription upon it shows that it was erected by the silversmiths and traders of the Forum to the Emperor, his wife, Julia Pia, and their two sons. Though elaborately ornamented, the sculptures are of little value, and show the rapid decline of art from the Augustan Age.

Returning to the Forum Romanum from the Forum Boarium, we cross the Palatine—a spot unsurpassed even in Rome for its marvellous combination



GARDENS OF CONVENT, ON THE PALATINE.

of historic interest and picturesque beauty. Tradition connects it with the fabled colony of Trojans who settled in Italy under *Pius Æneas*. It is said that Evander and the Arcadians established themselves here. Even the destructive criticism of modern historians, which has swept away so many poetic legends, admits the probability of a Pelasgic village on the summit of the hill which served as the birthplace and cradle of the city of Romulus. Here the half mythical founder of Rome saw the flight of vultures which determined the augury in his favour; and around the base of this hill he marked out the



*pomacrium* of his city. It was on the Palatine that he died, probably at the hands of the jealous nobles who resented his ambition; and for generations his straw-built hut was preserved with superstitious reverence, down to the reign of Nero. Here in after ages stood the stately mansions of patricians and

senators—Crassus, Cicero, Hortensius, Clodius, Milo, and Catiline. Here the emperors built for themselves edifices of such splendour, that the Palatine has given its name to *palaces* in every language of Europe. Three of the seven hills were absorbed by the imperial house and gardens, which embraced an area of three and a half miles. The quarries of the world were ransacked for costly marbles—purely white, or veined with purple and gold. Here stood the Golden House of Nero, who, when he entered his sumptuous palace, declared that “at last he felt himself lodged like a man.”

Now all is ruin. The marbles have been stripped off, leaving enormous masses of brickwork, which in their vastness and extent look like a city of the giants. The whole hill is scarped with arches, which formed the substructures upon which the palace was reared. Yet even the ruins have formed the theatre for



PORTA ROMANA, ON THE PALATINE.

a new beauty. A luxuriant vegetation flourishes amid the remains of bygone splendour. “No site of Roman ruin,” says Mr. Hemans, “equals the Palatine in blending the wildness of nature with the beauty of decay, the picturesqueness of landscape with the solemnity of the ornamental remains. Long avenues of

trees extend between vaulted chambers, more or less fallen; huge masses of crumbling masonry rise out of garden plantations; tall cypresses shoot up from terrace walks; the myrtle and ilex hang over shattered walls that seem on the point of sinking to the ground; here and there may be seen the fleshy foliage of the cactus, or the broad, tapering leaves of the aloe, spreading from some chink where the soil has accumulated; even the vulgar appropriation to vegetable gardens has not destroyed the solemn sadness or affecting beauty of the Imperial Mount in its desolation."

There is one historical association connected with the Palace of the Cæsars, as yet unnoticed, which is the most interesting of all. When the great apostle of the Gentiles, claiming his right as a Roman citizen, appealed unto Cæsar, Festus replied: "Hast thou appealed unto Cæsar? unto Cæsar shalt thou go." And the book of Acts enables us to trace his course hither by way of Puteoli, Appii Forum, and the Three Taverns, and when the historian breaks off his narrative he had lived two whole years in charge of a soldier that kept him. That during this or a subsequent imprisonment he pleaded his cause before the em-

peror we know from his own words, in which the loftiest heroism and the most touching pathos are blended. "At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge. Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the



CLIVUS VICTORIÆ, ON THE PALATINE.

preaching might be fully known, and that a'l the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto His heavenly kingdom."\*

It was somewhere in these ruined halls that the apostle stood, strong in the faith of an invisible presence, confronting the power of Imperial Rome. That his words were not without effect upon his hearers we learn from his Epistle to the Philippians, where he says: "I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which have happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel; so that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all Cæsar's court."†

And again he says, in the same epistle, "All the saints salute you, chiefly they that are of Cæsar's household."

A very remarkable illustration of these words has recently been discovered. In the chambers which were occupied as guard-rooms by the Prætorian troops on duty in the palace, a number of rude caricatures are found roughly scratched upon the walls, just such as may be seen upon barrack-walls in every part of the world. Amongst these is one of a human figure nailed upon a cross. To add to the "offence of the cross" the crucified one is represented with the head of an animal, probably that of an ass. Before it stands the figure of a Roman legionary with one hand upraised in the customary attitude of worship. Underneath is the rude, misspelt, ungrammatical inscription, *Alexamcnos worships his god*. It can scarcely be doubted



GRAFFITO IN THE COLLEGIO ROMANO.

that we have here a contemporary caricature executed by one of the Prætorian guard ridiculing the faith of a Christian comrade.

Not far from the Palatine stand the remains of another monument of imperial splendour - the baths of Caracalla. They were commenced by the emperor whose name they bear, were continued by Heliogabulus, and completed by Alexander Severus. Almost equally with the Colosseum they attest the magnificence and extent of the public edifices reared by the emperors. A mile in circumference, they could accommodate 1600 bathers at once. The floors and ceilings were of mosaic, the walls were of costly marbles or were decorated with frescoes. Innumerable statues, amongst them some of the finest now in the Roman galleries, have been dug up from the mounds of ruin which cover the

\* 2 Timothy iv. 16-18.

† Marginal rendering.

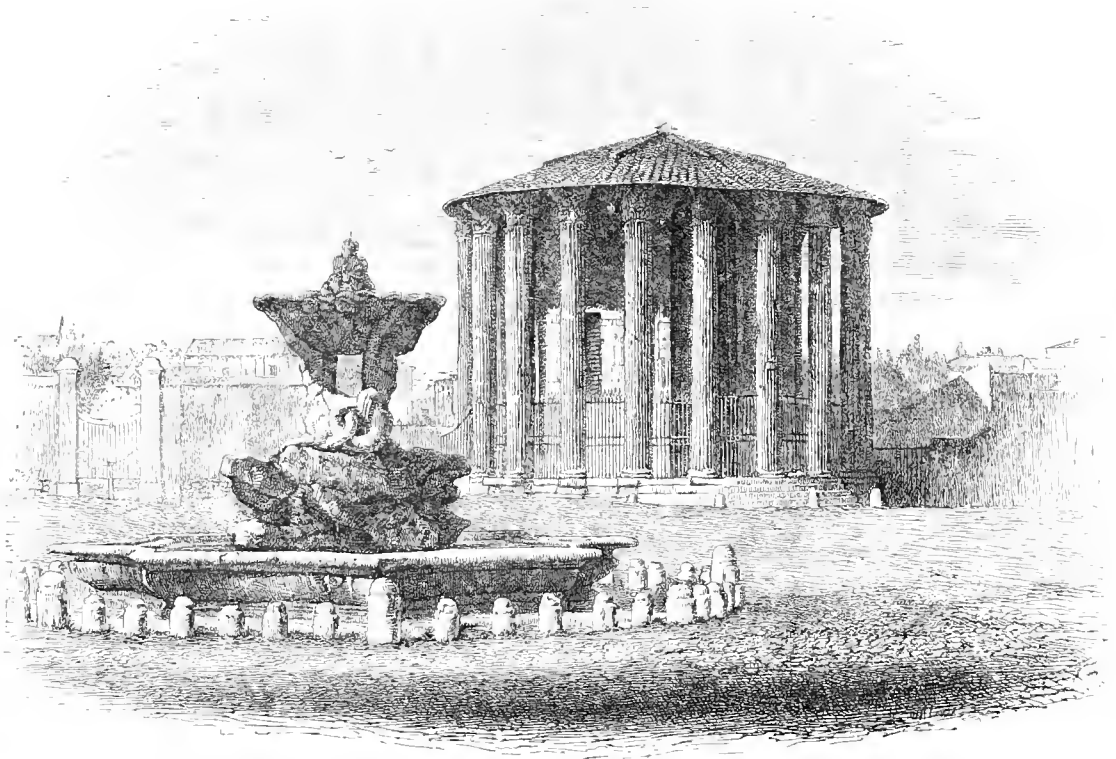




## THE TEMPLE OF VESTA.

ground far and wide. The baths were supplied with water by an aqueduct constructed for that purpose, the arches of which may still be seen crossing the Campagna for a distance of fourteen miles from the city.

The grandeur and beauty of these ruins have excited the enthusiastic admiration of innumerable visitors. Shelley, in the preface of his *Prometheus Unbound*, says, "This poem was chiefly written upon the mountainous ruins of the baths of Caracalla, among the flowery glades and thickets of odoriferous blossoming trees, which are extended in ever-widening labyrinths upon its immense platforms and dizzy arches suspended in the air. The bright blue sky of Rome, and the effect of the vigorous awakening spring in that delicious climate, and the new life with which it drenches the spirits, even to intoxication, were the inspiration of the drama." Though the extensive excavations now going on amongst the ruins somewhat mar the general effect, it would yet be difficult to exaggerate their exquisite beauty.



TEMPLE OF VESTA.

Whilst many of the churches of modern Rome have been constructed out of the ruins of its ancient basilicas and temples, two are specially noteworthy as remaining unchanged in form, the dedication being simply transferred from a pagan deity to a Christian saint. One of these, the temple of Vesta, stands at the foot



of the Palatine, between it and the Tiber. Doubts have been entertained as to its original dedication, and it certainly was not the Temple of Vesta described by Horace as exposed to the inundations of the Tiber.\* It is now known as the church of S. Maria del Sole. It is only opened for public service on certain days in the year. Its exquisite proportions are injured by the modern roof of coarse tiles, which have replaced the original entablature and covering; but it well deserves to be, as it is, one of the most favourite objects in Rome for reproduction in models and mosaics.

Better known by engravings even than the Temple of Vesta is the Pantheon, which retains its ancient name, though it was dedicated so early as A.D. 608 to S. Maria ad Martyres. It is the one edifice of old Rome that remains entire, "spared, and bless'd by time,"—

"Simple, erect, severe, austere, sublime,  
Shrine of all saints, and temple of all gods."

Twenty-seven years before the birth of Christ, Agrippa dedicated this temple "to all the gods." But it is probable that the body of the building was of far older date, and that only the portico was added by Agrippa. The marble of the interior is Pentelican from Attica, while that of the portico, of the pavement, and of other additions to the ancient rotunda, is from Carrara or some Grecian island, which was not quarried till a later period. The modern tourist walks on the same pavement which was trod by Augustus and Agrippa, and the eye looks up through the open circle at the top to the same Italian sky at which the Roman aediles and consuls gazed. The clouds of incense from popish altars creep through this aperture, through which ascended the smoke and incense of old heathen sacrifices. No other existing edifice thus links together the paganism and the popery of Rome.

The symmetry and beauty of the dome have been universally admired, and to it are owing the dome of Santa Sophia at Constantinople, and that of St. Peter's. It is an exact hemisphere, and was originally covered with plates of silver, for which bronze was afterwards substituted. These bronze plates were removed by Urban VIII., to form the pillars of the apostle's tomb in the Vatican, and to be cast into cannon. From the rough appearance of the brick exterior of the lower part, it seems to have been covered with marble, or hidden by contiguous buildings.

The opening at the top of the dome is about twenty-eight feet in diameter, for the purpose of lighting the interior, which has been effected with extraordinary skill. It not only lights the whole of the interior perfectly, but in the most charming and magical manner. There is an ascent by about two hundred steps in the interior to this opening. The tasteless belfries, called in derision "the asses' ears of Bernini," were added at the command of Urban VIII.

Hawthorne, in his *Note Book*, has recorded his impressions of the interior of the Pantheon as seen on a spring day, when clouds and sunshine chased one

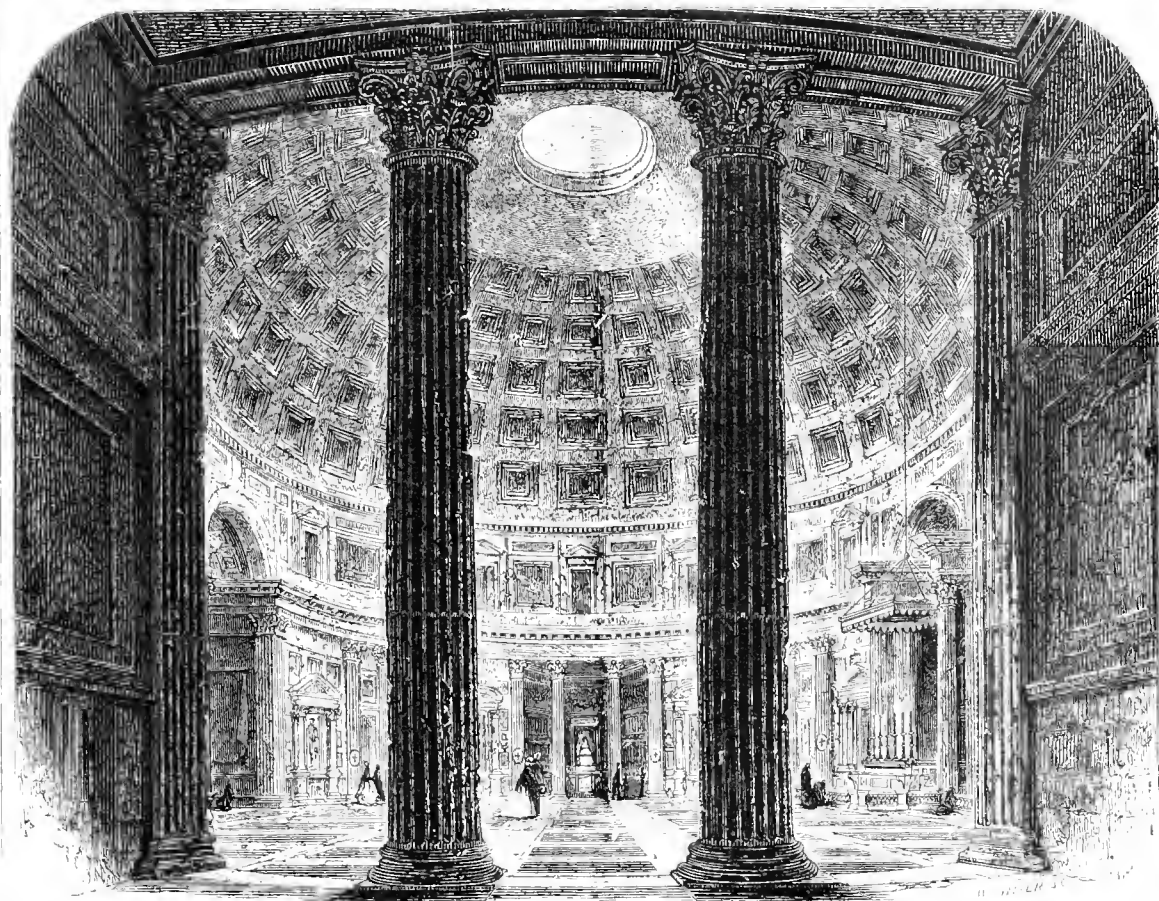
\* *Carm.* i. 2.



## THE PANTHEON.

another across the sky. All who have stood beneath the swelling dome, and watched the play of light and shade through its central aperture, will sympathise with his feelings :

“ In the Pantheon to-day it was pleasant, looking up to the circular opening, to see the clouds flitting across it, sometimes covering it quite over, then permitting a glimpse of sky, then showing all the circle of sunny blue. Then would come the ragged edge of a cloud, brightened throughout with sunshine, passing and changing quickly—not that the Divine smile was not always the same, but



INTERIOR OF THE PANTHEON.

continually variable through the medium of earthly influences. The great slanting beam of sunshine was visible all the way down to the pavement, falling upon motes of dust, or a thin smoke of incense imperceptible in the shadow. Insects were playing to and fro in the beam, high up toward the opening. There is a wonderful charm in the naturalness of all this, and one might fancy a swarm of cherubs coming down through the opening and sporting in the broad ray to gladden the faith of worshippers on the pavement beneath ; or angels bearing prayers upward, or bringing down responses to them, visible with dim brightness

as they pass through the pathway of heaven's radiance, even the many hues of their wings discernible by a trusting eye; though, as they pass into the shadow, they vanish like the motes. So the sunbeam would represent those rays of Divine intelligence which enable us to see wonders, and to know that they are natural things."

Before leaving pagan Rome and proceeding to the Rome of the early Christians, it will be well briefly to speak of that memorable siege and sack of the city under Alaric. The destruction of its ancient monuments had already commenced. Up to this time, however, the spoilers had been its own citizens and rulers. But now began that series of disasters which, continuing from age to age, made "of the city a heap, of a defenced city a ruin; a palace of strangers to be no city."

In the reign of Honorius a period of six hundred and twenty years had elapsed since Hannibal had encamped on the banks of the Anio just outside the walls. The Romans, however, with characteristic fortitude marched a body of troops out of the opposite gates to reinforce the army in Spain, and putting up to auction the ground on which his camp was pitched had sold it at the ordinary market price. The Carthaginian general was compelled to raise the siege, and since then no foreign foe had appeared before its walls. But the cup of its iniquities was full. The time foretold by prophets had come. To the souls under the altar "that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: and which cried with a loud voice, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost Thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?" it was said "that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled."\*

And now the Romans were to suffer those calamities which they had dealt out so pitilessly to others. The Goths, under Alaric, encompassed the walls, watched all the gates, cut off supplies from the country, and commanded the navigation of the Tiber. The Romans had long been trying to forget in luxury and excess the dangers with which they were surrounded. For awhile they exhibited haughty surprise and indignation, and wondered that vile barbarians should dare thus to insult the capital of the world. Soon their necessities taught them humbler language. At first they were reduced to scarcity, and soon the scarcity became a famine. The doomed city now underwent all the horrors of a siege. Treasures of gold and silver were expended in the purchase of the scantiest and vilest food. Many thousands died of starvation, and, as at the siege of Jerusalem, it is even said that mothers were forced by famine to kill and eat their own children. At last they were compelled to throw themselves upon the clemency of Alaric, and sent ambassadors to negotiate with their barbaric enemy.

The ambassadors delivered their message in a haughty manner. They

\* Rev. vi. 9-11.





ALARIC AND THE ROMAN AMBASSADORS.

"If such, O King, are your demands, what do you intend to leave us?"

"Your lives," answered Alaric.

declared, in language very little suited to their condition, that the Romans were determined to maintain their dignity both in peace and war. They told Alaric that if he refused them an honourable capitulation, he might sound his trumpets and give battle to an innumerable army animated by despair. "The thicker the hay the easier it is mowed," was the grim reply of the Gothic king. This foreboding language was accompanied by a loud insulting laugh from the conqueror, who knew how to estimate the starved, effeminate Romans at their proper worth. He then condescended to state what he would consent to receive as the price of his retreat from the city. His conditions were as follows:—He must receive *all* the gold and silver in the city, whether it belonged to the state or to private individuals; *all* the rich and precious movables; *all* the slaves who could show that they were barbarians. The ambassadors were now thoroughly humbled. "If such, O king," they answered, in suppliant tones, "are your demands, what do you intend to leave us?" "YOUR LIVES," answered the haughty conqueror. The ambassadors trembled and retired.

Alaric fixed a ransom, and for a season the beleaguering army withdrew its deadly grasp and marched into Tuscany. But it was only for a season, and the last condition of Rome was worse than the first. For the people mistook their case, and fancied the barbarians had gone away through fear. And so when Alaric demanded reparation for the insults that had followed him, and for the unscrupulous violation of the conditions of peace, Honorius arrogantly bade him forthwith to evacuate all the lands of the empire. Alaric came back to Rome. This time the Goths stormed the city without waiting to besiege it.

And such a storm! They entered the Eternal City at midnight. The Salarian Gate was thrown open, and the flood of hostile forces poured in. Houses were fired on either hand. In the disorder of the night the flames spread, and burnt down public buildings and private palaces. A contemporary historian asserts that the wrath of heaven supplied an additional terror, and that the Forum, populous with temples and the statues of gods and heroes, was blasted with lightning. The full horrors of that dreadful night, when barbarians and Romans in their death-struggle fought amid the crackling of fires and falling-in of those narrow streets—for the Roman streets were narrow and overlapping—can have been known only to such as bore part in the bitter broil. Many believed that it was from national neglect of the temples and priestly worship—for pagan ceremonies were forbidden in Rome—that the gods had rained these calamities upon the city. Others sneered at the Christians, and said their God in whom they trusted was not able to help them. To these latter, it seems, St. Augustine addressed his great work, *De Civitate Dei*, from which many glimpses of the internal condition of Rome during the siege may be got.

For six days this terrible sack went on. With the citizens often despair provoked a furious resistance, and then revenge was close at hand—reprisals, promiscuous massacre of the innocent and helpless, and violence and outrage of every kind. Pillage was universal, all Rome being flooded with the barbarians.

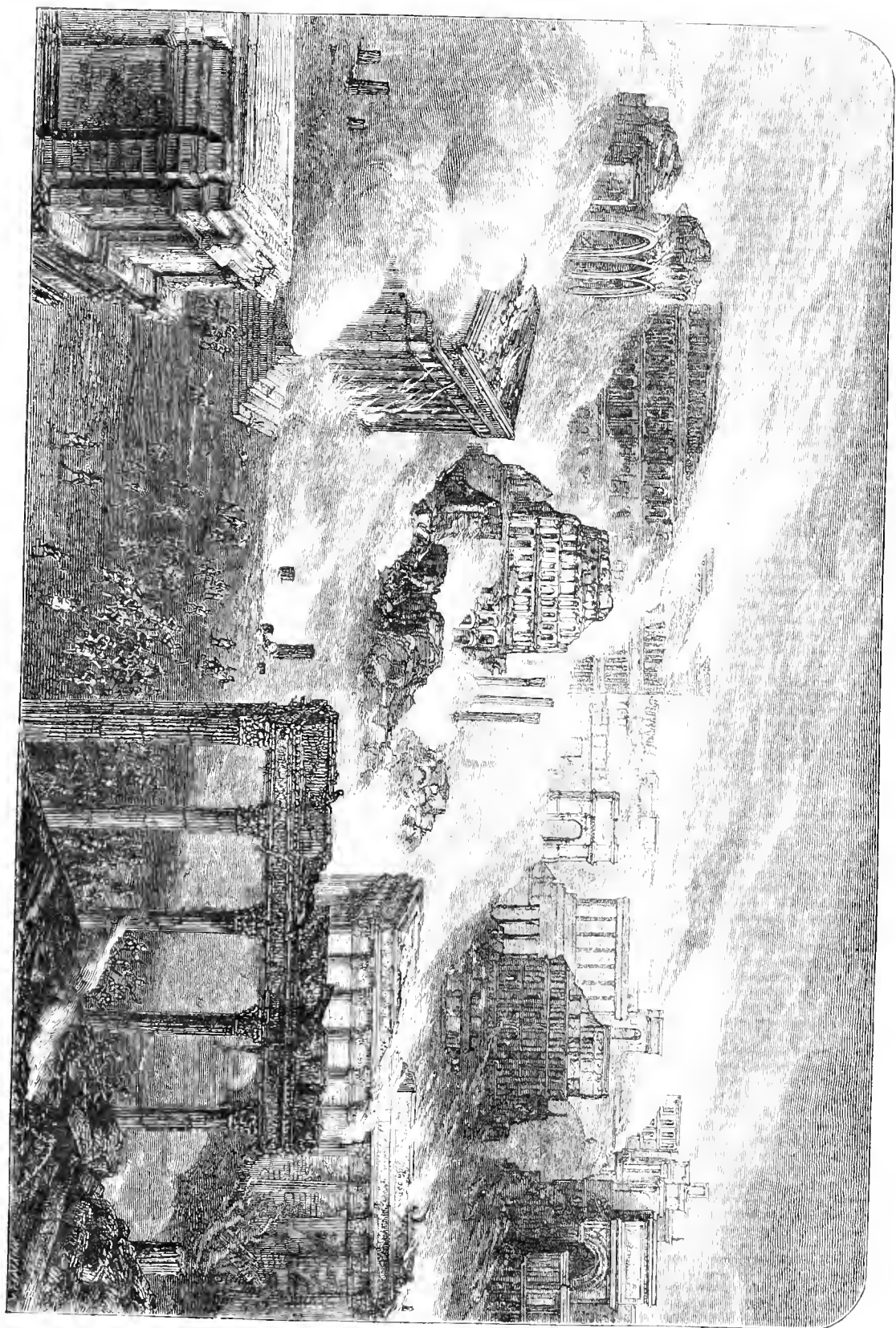
Gold and jewels and treasure that would go in small compass were sought for, and every house was searched and searched again. Palaces were stripped of all their splendour. Costly furniture, sideboards of massy plate, silk and purple, were piled into the waggons that followed in the wake of the barbarian army. Many a fine statue the Goths melted down for the sake of the precious metal. Threats and blows forced confession of hidden treasures. "Some Christians," writes Augustine, "were put to the torture, to the end that they might discover where their goods lay. But the true good, whereby they themselves were good, they could neither lose nor discover. Christ enriches the martyr with everlasting felicity. No man that ever confessed Christ could lose Him amongst all these torments. As for these, their minds took a loftier pitch, beholding both the possession and affection of earthly riches with an eye of scorn. They lost all they had! What? Their faith, their zeal? These are Christian riches. He that is rich before God, what can man take from him? These are the treasures of which Christians are opulent. What have the Christians endured in this sack of Rome that turns not to their profit, if we rightly consider it? The extremity of famine, they say, destroyed many. Well, but they who patiently went through it have made good use of it. For such as the famine slew it delivered from the evil of this life. A bad death can never follow a good life. For there is nothing that makes death bad but that estate which followeth death. And what power hath the horror of death to affright their souls who have led a virtuous life?"

After this six days of sack, the barbarians, laden with spoils, evacuated Rome —poured out along the Appian Way, wandering at will until they took up their summer quarters in Southern Italy. There in that lovely land these rough northerners made themselves at home. Farms, and villas, and garden-like uplands were pleasanter than encampments outside Rome. They spared nothing. The historian says: "The fruits of a long peace perished under the rude grasp of the barbarians, who themselves were incapable of tasting the elegant refinements of luxury which had been prepared for the use of the soft and polished Italians. Each soldier claimed his share of the corn and cattle, oil and wine, daily brought into the Gothic camp, and the principal warriors insulted the villas and gardens once inhabited by Lucullus and Cicero along the beauteous coast of Campania. Their trembling captives, the sons and daughters of Roman senators, presented in goblets of gold and gems large draughts of Falernian wine to the haughty victors, who stretched their huge limbs under the shade of plane-trees artificially disposed to screen the scorching rays and admit the genial warmth of the sun. These delights were enhanced by the memory of past hardships."

The city was again given over to plunder, eleven centuries after its memorable sack by the Goths, in the days of Charles v. The occupation lasted for nine months, during which the most atrocious deeds of cruelty, rapine, and lust were perpetrated. In this storming of Rome, Pope Clement vii. shut himself up in the Castle of St. Angelo. By the time that his conquerors set



THE SACK OF ROME.







him at liberty, he was reduced to the extremity of eating asses' flesh—all that remained between him and starvation. Insulting conditions of surrender were forced from him; as for the wretched inhabitants of the city, they were subjected to the utmost suffering. Since then the city has been often besieged. It was taken by the French on June 30, 1849; and again by the Italian army September 20, 1870. But the nations are no longer convulsed with the shock of its overthrow. It was a crumbling rampart that slid down into the river of Time, and the waters have closed over it without eddy or ripple. So long ago as 1290, Dante wrote:

"The Church of Rome,  
Mixing two governments that ill assort,  
Hath missed her footing, fall'n into the mire,  
And there herself and burden much defiled."

In seeking for traces of the primitive church in Rome, we turn at once to those in the catacombs as being not only of the highest interest and importance, but also of unquestioned authenticity. Elsewhere we are perplexed by superstitious legends and conflicting traditions, in which it is difficult to extract the few grains of truth from the mass of error in which they are imbedded. But in the catacombs we cannot doubt that here the martyred dead were laid down to rest "in peace," and that the living sought refuge from persecution in these "dens and caves of the earth."\*

Concerning the construction and early history of these crypts nothing is known with certainty. Some of the classical writers allude to subterranean caverns which appear to have existed and been inhabited from a remote antiquity. Many writers on the subject consider this underground city to be the result of quarryings carried on for the sake of stone to be used in building. Others regard them as pits dug out for the sake of pozzolana, a sandy volcanic material used for mortar or cement†. Lastly, there are those who believe them to have been excavated for purposes of interment, and either in part or altogether to have been the work of the early Christians.

It is only with the condition of the catacombs from the commencement of our era, and principally with the story of them during the few first centuries, that we have now to do. That they were occasionally taken advantage of prior to those days for the purposes of burial, is evident from the pagan inscriptions found here and there in them; but probably the Roman world knew little of their existence, and less as to their extent. The outlaws of society, vagabonds, and thieves hid in them, and kept the entrances secret.

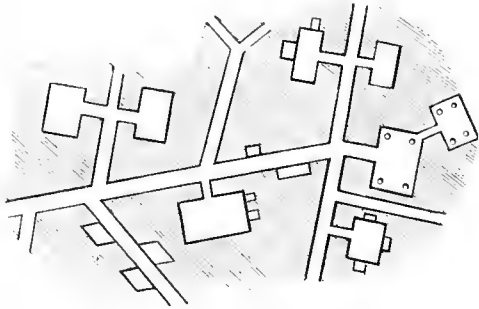
The catacombs spread in almost every direction outside the walls of

\* In the following pages, much use has been made of a series of papers, in the *Sunday at Home*, on "Early Christian Haunts in the Catacombs."

† Until recently the theory that the excavations were originally made for building material was that commonly adopted. More accurate observation, however, seems to show that the galleries are carried through soil which could not be used for that purpose.

## THE CATACOMBS.

Rome. The passages or galleries in them crowd together in some places like the alleys and streets of a city, intersecting one another in a network of endless entanglement and confusion, so that attempting to explore without a clue



SECTION OF CALIXTUS CATACOMBS SHOWING THE DISPOSITION OF PASSAGES AND CUBICULA.

you are soon effectually lost. At times so densely are they crowded together, that you wonder the impending crust does not break through and bury acres of them. Again, from this congested labyrinth passages outstrip the rest, and run off singly for a mile or more, to join some distant branch. Here and there ranks of galleries are found existing one beneath another, and care must be taken, in walking through the topmost, lest, on account of the sundry holes met with where the intervening tufa has given way,

the visitor do not inadvertently fall through into the regions below. The sides

of all the galleries are thickly perforated with tombs, oblong horizontal niches—two, three, or even six ranks of them, one above another, from the floor to the roof, where the dead have been placed and sealed in; and they present to your eye as you walk along an appearance something similar to the sleeping-berths in a ship; or, to use the words of Abbé Gerbet, you may look upon them as the “shelves of a vast library, where Death has arranged his works.” “Vast” indeed the abbé may well term it; for the most experienced of archæologists calculate the combined length of these passages at upwards of nine hundred miles, and assert that above six millions of dead were buried in them!

Perhaps the most interesting are those known as the catacombs of St. Calixtus. The entrance is in some gardens adjoining the Appian Road, about two miles from Rome. Having lit the torches handed to us we follow our guide, bending low through an arch in the tufa, into an oblong chamber, where a gleam of daylight struggles in through a distant opening in the top. The impressionable visitor will not enter without



ENTRANCE TO CATACOMBS.

a feeling that he treads on hallowed ground; for there, cut in the dark grey stone, four graves confront him severally inscribed:—

ANTEROS, EPI.

FABIANVS, MAR.  
EVTICHIANVS EPIS ET MAR.

LVCIVS, EPIS.

Four bishops and martyrs of Rome—of the dates A.D. 235, A.D. 236, A.D. 256, A.D. 275—are entombed in this small chapel. The other graves around lack



A CUBICULUM WITH TOMBS.

superscriptions. On in the black darkness, in single file, through close and devious passages where the torches of the foremost of the party are soon lost to sight, we arrive at a cubiculum; in fact, we are come to a region where they abound, for we pass many of them to the right and the left. But a visit to this one must suffice; it is about as capacious as the apse of a small church, only the vaulted roof is very low. We crowd in and bring our lights to bear on two glass cases, which the guide points out to us, wherein are laid bodies that have been taken from their graves.

And these were martyrs! so at least says our guide. Looking upwards away from this sad spectacle, we recognise, over-

head, the gentle figure of the Good Shepherd (see p. 83) painted in colours that have stood bravely under the corrosive touch of Time, and, what is more destructive in these cases, the smoke of visitors' lamps.

In the great majority of instances the graves consist of deep, oblong, shelf-like incisions in the tufa, wherein, after the lower surface had been hollowed out a little for its reception, the body was placed; and then, when the offices had terminated, and friends had looked their last, the aperture was sealed up. In the case of a martyr a palm branch, symbol of conquest, was painted or carved outside. A little vase, probably a lachrymatory, for holding tears of grief, was often stuck on by means of plaster to the edge.

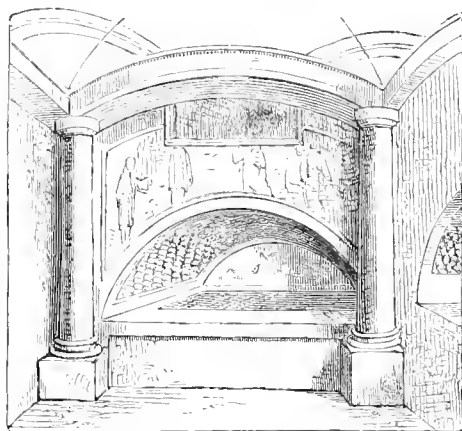
There is, however, another kind of tomb, called *arcosolium*, in the construction of which a deeper incision was made into the wall; and in this, instead of the mere niche or shelf, you have a capacious sarcophagus hollowed into the lower surface of the cutting, while over it is an arch fashioned in the stone. The remains of Christians held in high repute were usually deposited here; though sometimes an *arcosolium* was



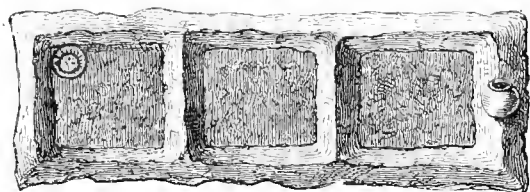
FRAGMENT OF SLAB, AND LACHRYMATORY.

appropriated for the burial of a family, in which case two or three shelves were excavated in the tufa beyond the sarcophagus, under the arch.

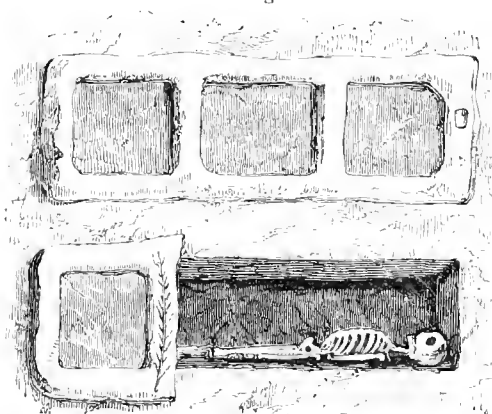
Figs. *a* and *b* will give some idea of one ordinary manner of sealing a grave.



ARCOSOLIUM.

Fig. *a*.

X AXYNIA IN PACE BENEMERETI IN DOMO ET ERNA  
DEI

Fig. *b*.

Three Roman tiles are fixed into the tufa roughly by means of plaster, or strong cement, and in this way the opening is hermetically closed; the little bottle of treasured tears or blood is seen on the right. The impression on the left-hand tile is the mark of the Roman brick-maker. In fig. *b* is shown a cell partly unclosed, wherein the remains of the sleeper are brought to light, two of the tiles being torn away. A painted palm-branch, roughly sketched, is all that tells the tale of her death; while the inscription (see fig. *a*), prefixed with a cross, refers the passer-by to the "well-deserving Axyonia, in peace, in the eternal house of God."

Often a strip of marble or fragment of stone was substituted for the ordinary Roman tile in sealing the tombs; for the latter fabric, though cheap and easily procurable, was not so well adapted to take inscriptions; and it soon became the custom to write the name of the dead, his age, and other particulars, on the outer covering to his grave.

The following is one of the earliest inscriptions whose date is indicated; a translation alone is given for brevity's sake:

"IN THE TIME OF HADRIAN, EMPEROR, MARIUS, YOUTHFUL MILITARY COMMANDER, WHO LIVED ENOUGH, SINCE HE SPENT HIS LIFE AND BLOOD FOR CHRIST, IN PEACE."

Hadrian became emperor A.D. 117,

about twenty years after the death of the Apostle John.

Very little later is the following, in the reign of Antoninus Pius (A.D. 138)—the commencement of the inscription only is given:—

"Alexander mortuus non est sed vivit  
Super astra et  
Corpus in hoc tumulo quiescit."

(Alexander is not dead, but lives  
beyond the stars, and  
his body rests in this tomb.)

# THE CATACOMBS.



AN EARLY-CHRISTIAN BURIAL IN THE CATACOMBS.

This following has an affecting significance, and suggests much meaning in a few words :

“ HERE GORDIANUS, AMBASSADOR,

FROM GAUL,

CONSUMED WITH ALL HIS FAMILY FOR THE FAITH,

REPOSES IN PEACE.

THEOPHILA, SERVANT, MADE (THIS TABLE).

What an unaffected yet powerful showing forth of faith and charity is here !

## THE CATACOMBS.


A Christian family far from home, strangers in a strange land ; the father, ambassador perhaps to plead the cause of fellow Christians in trouble, meets not with mercy in Rome, but persecution and death for himself and his dear ones, and then the church in the catacombs obtains their dust. Who will not love the good servant, Theophila, that, being no longer able to wait on her master and his family, raises up this stone to their memory, and so remits to posterity their good name ? "The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance." The original is curious, the Latin being written in part in bad Greek characters :



"ΘΗC ΓωΡΘ HANTC ΓΑΛΛΗE NTNCHTC ΠΤΤΤ  
ΑΤΤC ΠΡω ΦΗΘΕ CΤΜ ΦΑΜΗΑΗΑ ΤωΤΑ  
QTHECΤNT HN ΠΑΚΕ  
ΤΘΦΗΑΑ ΑΝΘΑΛΑΑ ΦΕCΘΤ."

The following are a few facsimiles of these simple epitaphs culled very nearly at random from the collection in the Vatican :

AVRELIA ARETVSA  
VIVAS IN DEO



"Aurelia Arethusa, mayest thou live in God!"

The leaf, the sun, and a dove, often used in these inscriptions, seem to be symbolical :

EVCARPIA  
DORMIS  
IN PACE



"Eucarpia, thou sleepest in peace."

VIVV APFELICISSIMA  
IN DEO VIVES



"Most happy widow of Ap (Appius?),  
in God thou shalt live."

The martyr's palm it will be seen is appended to these. Others are without sculptured symbols :

"SABINUS CONJUGI MERENTI,  
QUE VIXIT IN PACE."  
(Sabinus to his deserving spouse,  
who lived in peace.)

"LAVINIA MELLE DULCIOR  
QUIESC. IN PACE."  
(Lavinia, sweeter than honey,  
reposes in peace.)

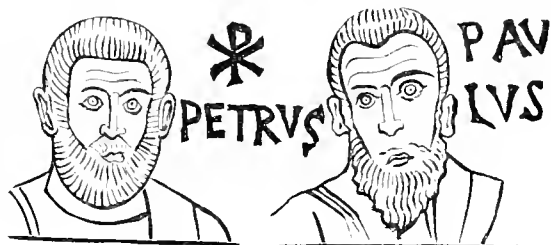
It was a very old custom to affix to tombs some indication of the earthly calling of the sleeper. Here is an illustration from the catacombs—LOCUS ADEO [D]ATI. "The (burying) place of Adeodatus." The good man's trade being indicated by the appended pick—a mason or *fossor* he must have





been: while the dove and olive-branch beneath tell of his rest in peace. He sleeps the sleep of the just.

The appended figures of St. Peter and St. Paul belong, it is said, to the fourth century, but probably are of much later date. They were painted in this rough outline over the grave of a child, immediately above a simple epitaph which told merely of his name and age.



These few inscriptions may serve as an example of the rest. If space allowed, longer ones might be introduced and multiplied to any extent. Although nearly every one is dissimilar in the wording, all agree in their simplicity and lack of ostentation, and at the same time each one seems to breathe of a spirit of charity and love.

"Here sleeps Gorgonius, friend to all, and enemy to no man."

"Abrinus to the memory of Pallidius, his dearest cousin and fellow-disciple."

In startling contrast to the wild despair of heathen lamentations is the sentiment breathed in the following, a mother's epitaph on her lost boy:—

"Magus, innocent child, thou hast begun  
Already to live among the innocent.  
How barren is this life to thee!  
How will the mother church receive the joyous,  
Returning from this world.  
Let the sighs of our breasts be hushed.  
The weeping of our eyes be stopt."

Again, we meet with several which record how long the separated (husband or wife) lived happily with the mourner in wedlock, without so much as one quarrel! In most instances the age of the dead is specified even to days:

"Thou hast fallen too soon, Constantia! admirable (pattern) of beauty and grace! who lived xviii. years, vi. months, xvi. days. In peace."

It is rather amusing to detect here and there, in the wording of inscriptions, traces of a defective aspirate in use among the early Christians of Rome; a prototype, in fact, of the cockney difficulty with the letter H: on the one hand, to observe 'ic written for Hic, 'ora for Hora, 'onorius for Honorius; on the other Hossa for ossa, Hoctobris, Heterna, and so on.

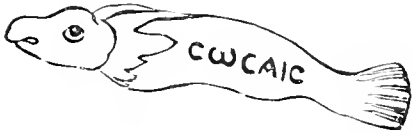
The early tenants of the catacombs were principally converted pagans, the lesser number being Jews; the one but lately come from taking part in the solemnities and festivals of idol-worship, the other retaining remembrances of

pride of race, exclusive in character, and familiar with the lore of sacred story: and traces of their previous tendencies are to be found portrayed on the walls: Christian paintings, tinged with pagan ideas on the one hand and Jewish customs on the other. In a cubiculum near the Appian Way is imaged forth a funeral supper, after the manner of the Greeks; and not far off appears a graphic representation of an *agapè*, or love-feast.

Illustrations of Jewish history are very frequent. The centre place in the vault of one cubiculum is given up to a painting of the seven-branched candlestick, which, being among the spoils of Jerusalem brought in triumph to Rome, it is possible the painter may himself have seen; while the offering of Isaac, the three children in the furnace, Daniel in the den of lions, Jonah with the fish, Jonah reclining under his gourd, Moses striking the rock, and one or two others, are repeated in different places.

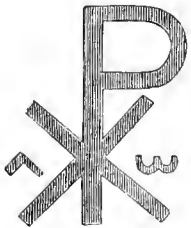
A very favourite symbol or figure with the early Christians was the fish; and this, it would seem, was of use in more ways than one; for the sign was a kind of freemasonry, by means of which one Christian could distinguish another, in a manner unintelligible to the enemies of the faith. It seems certain that little bone or wooden fishes were made and set aside for that purpose by the early church. The signification of this emblem is not at first apparent, save, indeed, that Jonah's fish shadowed forth the resurrection; but it is found that the letters composing the Greek *ἰχθῦς*, a fish, are the initials to the words Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour. Thus the sign of the fish was sacred to Christ, and was even used at times in place of the universal monogram at the beginning and ending of inscriptions.

Here is an instance from the catacombs. The painter seems to have written on it the Greek word *Σωσῆς* (mayest thou save).



The monogram of Christ is made up of the first two letters in the name of Christ, X and P; and sometimes alpha and omega are conjoined with it. It was in familiar use among

the early Christians of all lands, and appears in the catacombs (as some think) as soon as the days of Hadrian (A.D. 117), or perhaps before. Inscriptions were frequently begun or ended with this sign.



The palm-branch, emblem of victory, always a favourite symbol among the early disciples of Christ, was a sign allotted exclusively—so it appears—to those who had suffered as martyrs for the faith; a custom taking its rise probably from the vision of St. John in the Apocalypse: "I beheld, and lo! a great multitude stood before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed

with white robes, and palms in their hands." "These," said the elder, "are they who came out of great tribulation."

The dove on the cross is a very expressive token, and bears with it a touching significance to weary, wayworn man, that where the cross (or suffering)

is set up, and holds a place, there will the dove, indicative of the great Comforter, come with its healing wings. Or, on the contrary, it may be held to show forth that where the Holy Spirit deigns to fix His seat and make known His influence, there surely will be found the cross, tribulation, and suffering. Wandering, wayward man might wish it otherwise; but so it is, and ever must be, until this transitory season of trial gives way to the clear shining of God's face.



AN ORANTE, OR WOMAN ENGAGED IN PRAYER.

Our next illustration—one of many in the Calixtine catacombs—represents a woman engaged in prayer, in an attitude which, from its constant repetition on the walls, may be taken to indicate the posture usually assumed in that act of devotion, the eyes looking to heaven and the hands outstretched.

But most graceful, among the many pictures which decorate the walls, are the various representations of the Good Shepherd. The early Christians evidently loved the subject; they seem never to have tired of dwelling on or illustrating it in their own simple way; it held a central place in their hearts, as does the painting of it on the vaulted roofs of their cubicula.

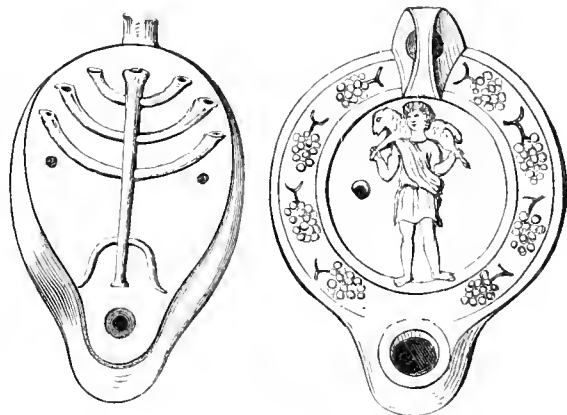
The illustration below is copied from a vault in the Calixtine cemetery. The shepherd is bearing one of the flock on his shoulders, which he has either brought back from wandering or taken up to rest in the fatigue of a long journey. On the compartment adjoining it the reaper is at work with the yellow corn, and by his side stands one gathering roses from the tree. Sometimes the shepherd and the sheep are seen peacefully reposing, suggesting the text, "He maketh me to lie down in green pastures, He leadeth me beside the still waters." Here is the shepherd again, but his loins are girt for travel, and his staff is in his hand. A few sheep linger near, watching while he plucks back a refractory member of the flock, or lays hold on one who has strayed. In one place the shepherd is represented as carrying his charge across a stream, bearing it carefully on his shoulders as he wades through, lest it should take harm.



THE GOOD SHEPHERD.

There was a custom common enough with the ancients of placing in the

tomb with the departed such objects as had been in familiar use with him during life. The early Christians in the catacombs adopted this usage to some extent, burying with their dead divers articles, which may now be seen in the Vatican



TERRA-COTTA LAMPS FOUND IN THE CATACOMBS.

and other collections. Among them are brooches, pins for the hair, coins, rings; articles of domestic use, such as lamps, candlesticks, and so on; most of these bear in their fabric some indication of their Christian origin—space only admits of one or two examples. Here are two small lamps in terra-cotta. On the one, it will be seen, is a raised figure of the Good Shepherd bearing a lamb on his shoulder, while a circlet of grapes is moulded on the outer rim. The other lamp carries on it a

representation of the seven-branched candlestick.

Seals are likewise found in the catacombs. Of the following, one bears the legend *In eo spes*—"In him is hope," encircling the monogram of Christ: on the second, *Spes dei* is intermingled with the same sign.



A little child in its last long sleep had been put to rest with its doll placed by its side; the little grave was sealed up, some ages of repose supervened, and all was forgotten; but in these latter times the workmen employed in the crypts broke into the tomb, and taking away the outer stone, revealed the plaything lying in company with the dust of the little maiden.



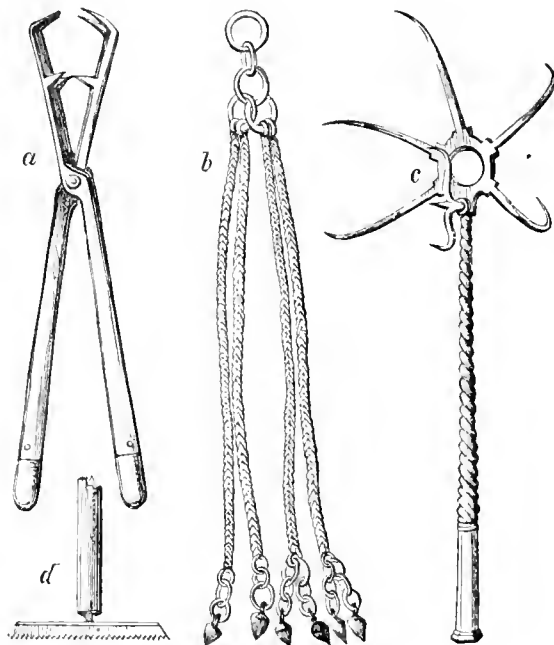
CHILD'S DOLL.

In some of the graves implements have been found which are conjectured, though without sufficient authority, to have been the instruments of torture buried with the martyrs who had suffered from them. Roman archæologists have classified them as follows: pincers (*a*) to crush a limb, or simply to hold it, cutting into the flesh; scourges of knotted cords (*b*), or bronze chains terminating in balls of iron, under the agonies inflicted by which a great number of martyrs died; (*c*) claws or *ungulae* for tearing the sides or members of martyrs while stretched on the bed of torture; (*d*) a kind of comb, a terrible instrument for producing pain, yet not deadly. That such tortures were inflicted upon the early Christians we know from the writings of contemporary martyrologists. But there is no evidence to show that the instruments by which they were inflicted ever passed from the hands of the executioners into those of the sufferers, or were buried in the graves of the martyrs. A more probable conjecture is that which identifies the relics with the

tools used by the dead man during his life, and they are, with the exception of the knotted cords, just what would be required for carding and dressing wool.

A visit to the museums in the Lateran and Vatican, where the most important inscriptions from the catacombs are collected and arranged, forcibly suggests a double contrast—with the mortuary remains of pagan Rome on one hand, and with the creed and ritual of papal Rome on the other.

The inscriptions on pagan sarcophagi and cinerary urns express only hopeless grief and dismay. The dead have been snatched away from light and life into darkness and annihilation. The survivors "sorrow as those that have no hope." A proud, hard stoicism under bereavement is the highest attainment of Roman virtue. Not unfrequently we find the language of bitter complaint against the unjust gods who



have snatched away the innocent child from loving parents with no prospect of reunion.\* But with the introduction of Christianity we have the dawn of a new hope. The very name *cemetery*, a *sleeping-place*, suggests the thought of a happy awakening when the morning shall come. The word *depositus* implies the same idea: the body is laid in the grave as a temporary deposit to be reclaimed at the appointed time. One inscription, already quoted, is typical of the sentiment of all: "Marius had lived long enough when, with his blood, he gave up his life for Christ." "Petronia, a deacon's wife," says, "Weep not, dear husband and daughters, believe that it is wrong to weep for one who lives in God; buried in peace." Placus, having inscribed upon the tomb of his wife the figure of a dove bearing an olive-branch, and the word *PLACE*, goes on to say, "This grief will always weigh upon me; but may it be granted me in sleep to behold thy revered countenance. My wife, Albana, always chaste and modest, I grieve over the loss of thy support, for the Divine Author gave thee to me as a sacred gift. You, well-deserving one, having left us, lie in peace, in sleep; but thou wilt arise; it is a temporary rest which is granted thee." It is only since our Lord "abolished death and brought life and immortality to light," that such words as these have been possible.

No less striking is the contrast which the remains of the primitive church in the catacombs offer to the teachings of modern Rome. The name of the Virgin

\* Maitland quotes from Mabillon an inscription which begins—*I, Procope, lift up my hands against God, who snatched me away, innocent.*

Mary never occurs. The assertion of Roman controversialists that a female figure in the attitude of prayer is a representation of the mother of our Lord is so utterly groundless, that it is tantamount to a confession of failure. The worship of saints and martyrs has no place amongst these authentic records. The dead are not gone to purgatorial fires; they rest "in peace," and "in Christ." The celibacy of the clergy is discountenanced by the fact that the bishops of Rome are buried with their wives. Everything speaks of a faith, a love, and a hope far removed from the arrogant pretensions of the later Roman Church.

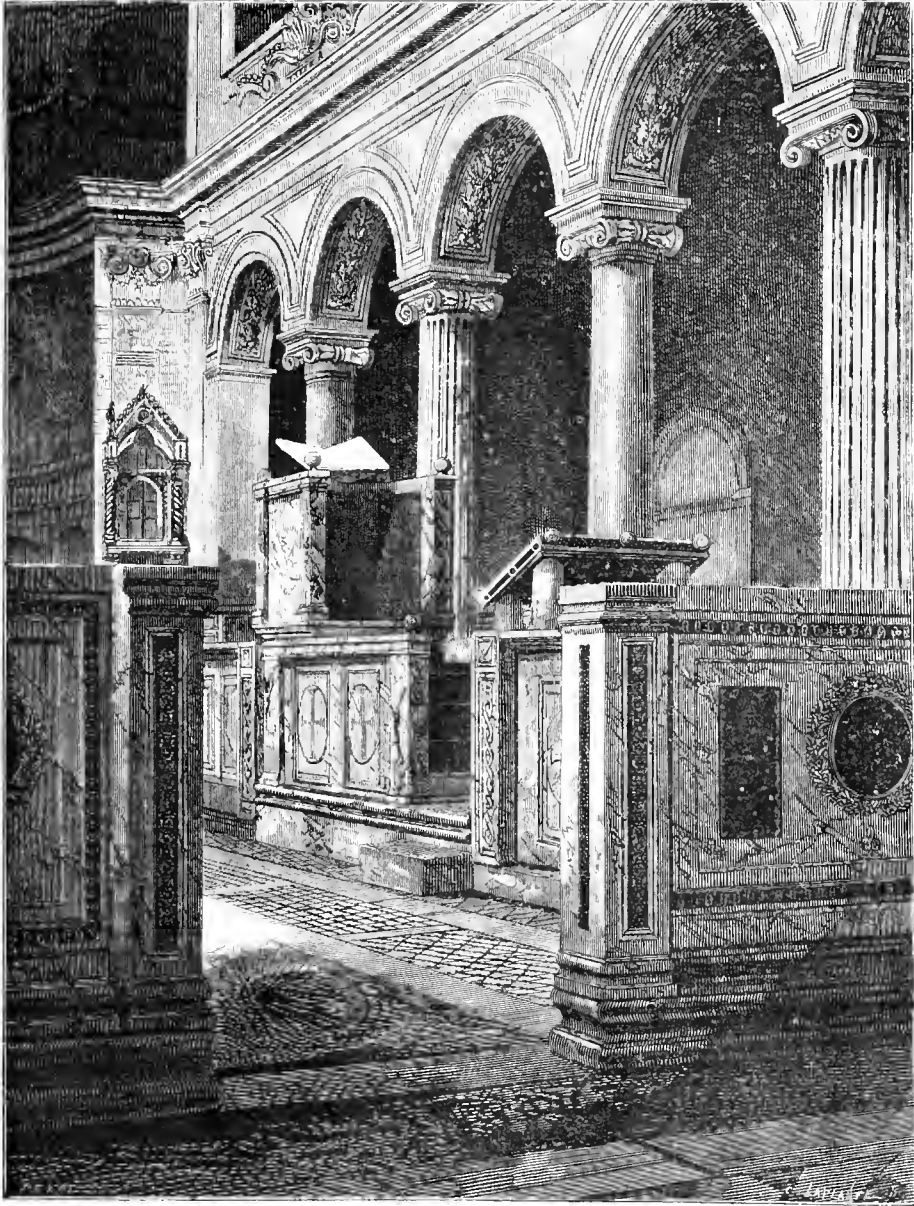
The descent from the pure apostolical Christianity of the catacombs into the abyss of papal error was at first very slow. The "mystery of iniquity" began to work, indeed, at an early age. But for some centuries it only began. Its full development was reserved for after ages. In the oldest churches of Rome there is little which can offend the most earnest Protestant. The mosaics of SS. Cosmo e Damiano, or those of the older parts of St. Clemente, for instance, are objectionable, chiefly because we may trace there the first step downward. In the former we have the twelve apostles represented as sheep, with the crowned Lamb in the centre standing upon a mound, intended probably for Mount Zion, from which flow the four rivers of paradise. Above is the River Jordan, apparently symbolical of death, and over this a magnificent figure of Christ in glory, holding a scroll in one hand, the other raised in benediction. The Apostles Peter and Paul are on either side introducing the two martyrs, Cosmo and Damian, together with Felix iv., the founder of the church, and St. Teodoro.

In the church of St. Clemente, we have a mosaic of the ascension of our Lord. The apostles stand gazing up into heaven; watching with them, and but raised slightly above them is Mary. Were it not for the later developments of the papacy, which painfully illustrate the danger of such representations, these compositions might pass without severe censure.

The ecclesiastical organisation of the city of Rome embraces seven basilicas and upwards of three hundred churches. Many of the latter, however, are either entirely closed, or are only open for worship on certain days in the year. The number of ecclesiastics is of course very fluctuating, and has been so especially during the political and religious movements of the last few years. The census of 1863 gave the statistics as follows: cardinals, 34; bishops, 36; priests, 1457; seminarists, 367; monks, 2569; nuns, 2031; making a total of 6494. This, for a city about the size of Edinburgh, is an ecclesiastical staff out of all proportion to its ecclesiastical requirements.\* And the variety of ecclesiastics is as striking as the number. Priests swarm in every part of the city. As Mr. Dicey says, "Franciscan friars and Dominicans, Carmelites and Capuchins, priests in brown cloth and priests in serge, priests in red, white, and grey, priests in purple, and priests in rags, standing on the church-steps, stopping at the door-ways, coming

\* The census referred to gave the total population as 201,161. It has greatly increased since the removal of the capital from Florence, and is now about 250,000.





CHURCH OF ST. CLEMENT.

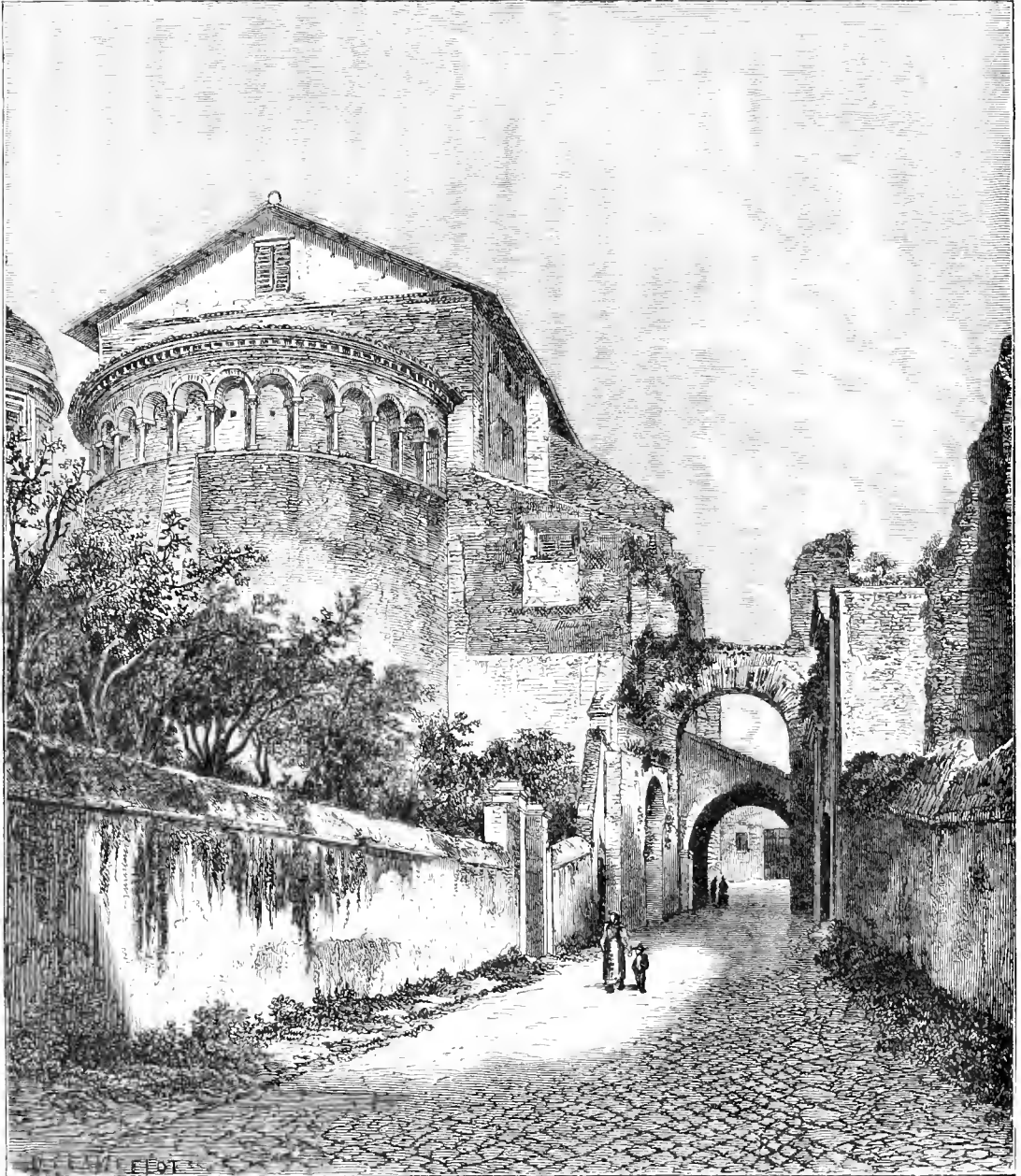
down the bye-streets, looking out of the windows, you see priests everywhere." Few things strike the visitor to Rome more forcibly than the immense number of monasteries, churches, and ecclesiastics of every grade,

"Eremites and friars  
White, black, and grey, with all their trumpery."

The basilicas of Rome are those of St. Peter, St. John Lateran, Santa Maria Maggiore and Santa Croce in Gerusalemme within the walls, and St. Paul,

CHURCHES IN ROME.

St. Lorenzo, and St. Sebastian outside. Of these, St. John Lateran is first in dignity, being the metropolitan church of Rome. The popes resided in its palace



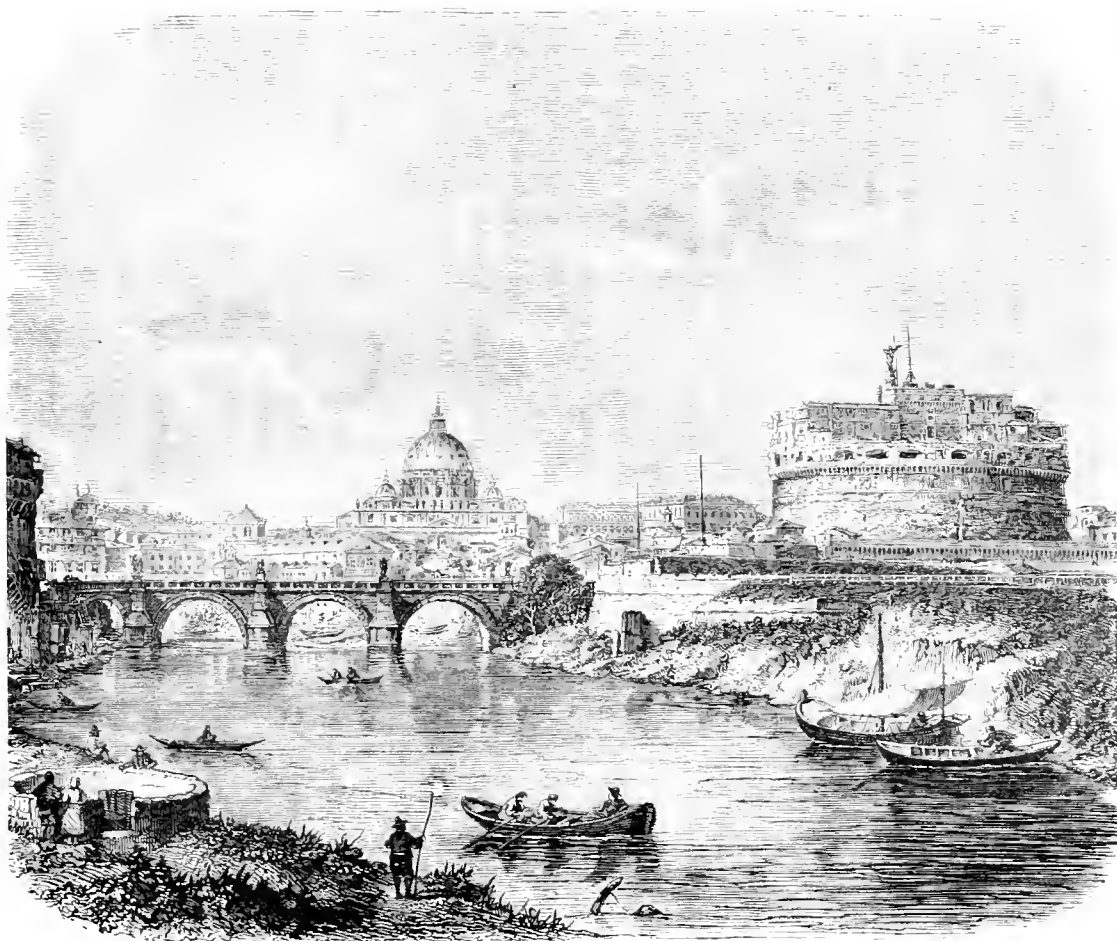
CHURCH OF SS. GIOVANNI E PAOLO.

for one thousand years, and five general councils have been held within its walls. In size, splendour, and present importance it yields, however, to St. Peter's. Of this, as the most famous church of Christendom, we give a more detailed account.

## ST. PETER'S.

It stands upon the traditional site of the tomb of St. Peter, over which, it is said, an oratory existed from the end of the first century. Of this, however, there is no historical evidence, and the presence of St. Peter in Rome at all is gravely doubted. In 306 Constantine commenced the construction of a great basilica on the spot, working with his own hands at the task, and carrying twelve baskets of earth in honour of the twelve apostles.

The Basilica of Constantine suffered greatly in the stormy times which



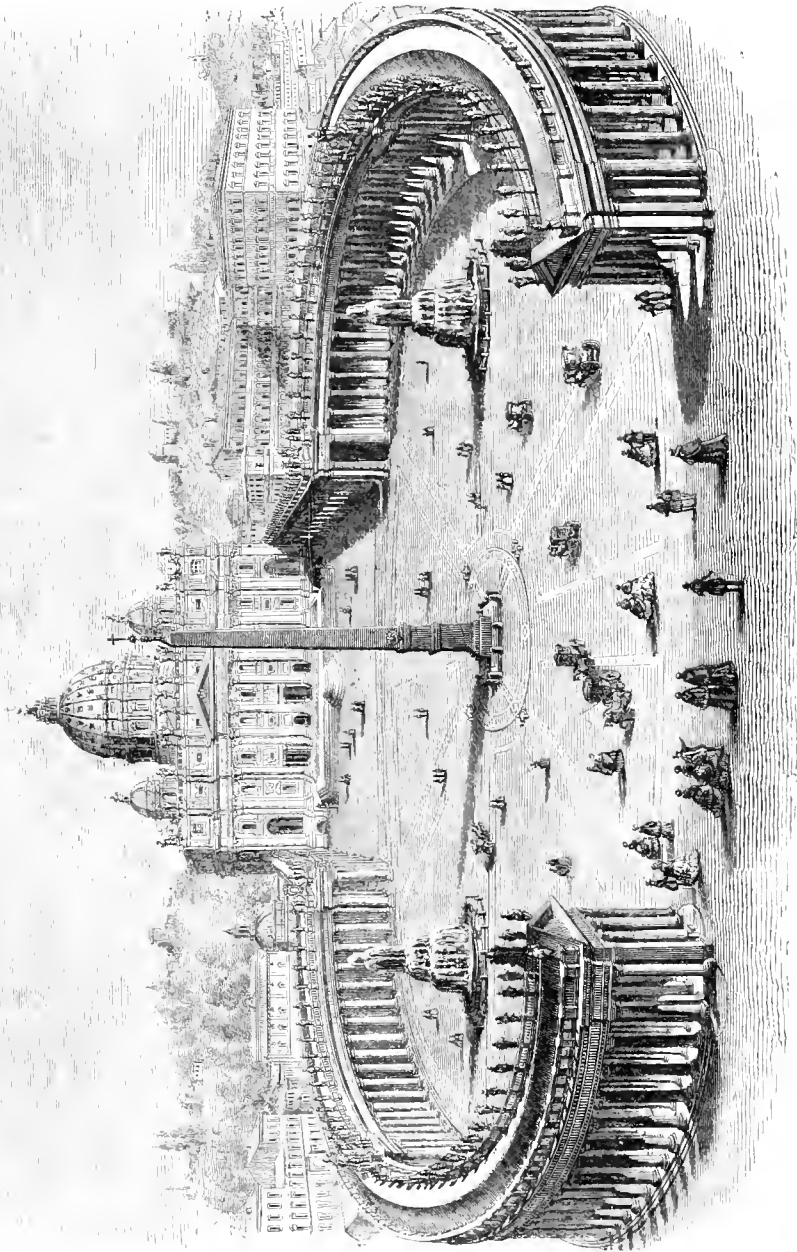
ST. PETER'S, WITH THE BRIDGE AND CASTLE OF ST. ANGELO.

followed. Still it stood for a thousand years, when it was determined to erect an edifice which should eclipse all others in size and splendour.

It was on the 18th of April, 1506, that Pope Julius II. laid the foundation of the new church. The stone was deposited at the base of one of the four pillars which now support the cupola; but only these pillars, and their superincumbent arches, were completed when Bramante, the first architect, died: Julius had expired in the preceding year. His successor, Leo X., however, carried forward

## ST. PETER'S.

the work with great energy; these two popes surpassing all their predecessors in the sale of indulgences, in order to obtain the vast sums required for the erection of the edifice. It is a memorable circumstance, that the indignation



GENERAL VIEW OF ST. PETER'S AND THE VATICAN.

caused by the shameless manner in which these indulgences were sold gave the first impulse to the Reformation under Luther.

The building was now committed to the charge of Raphael, with two other

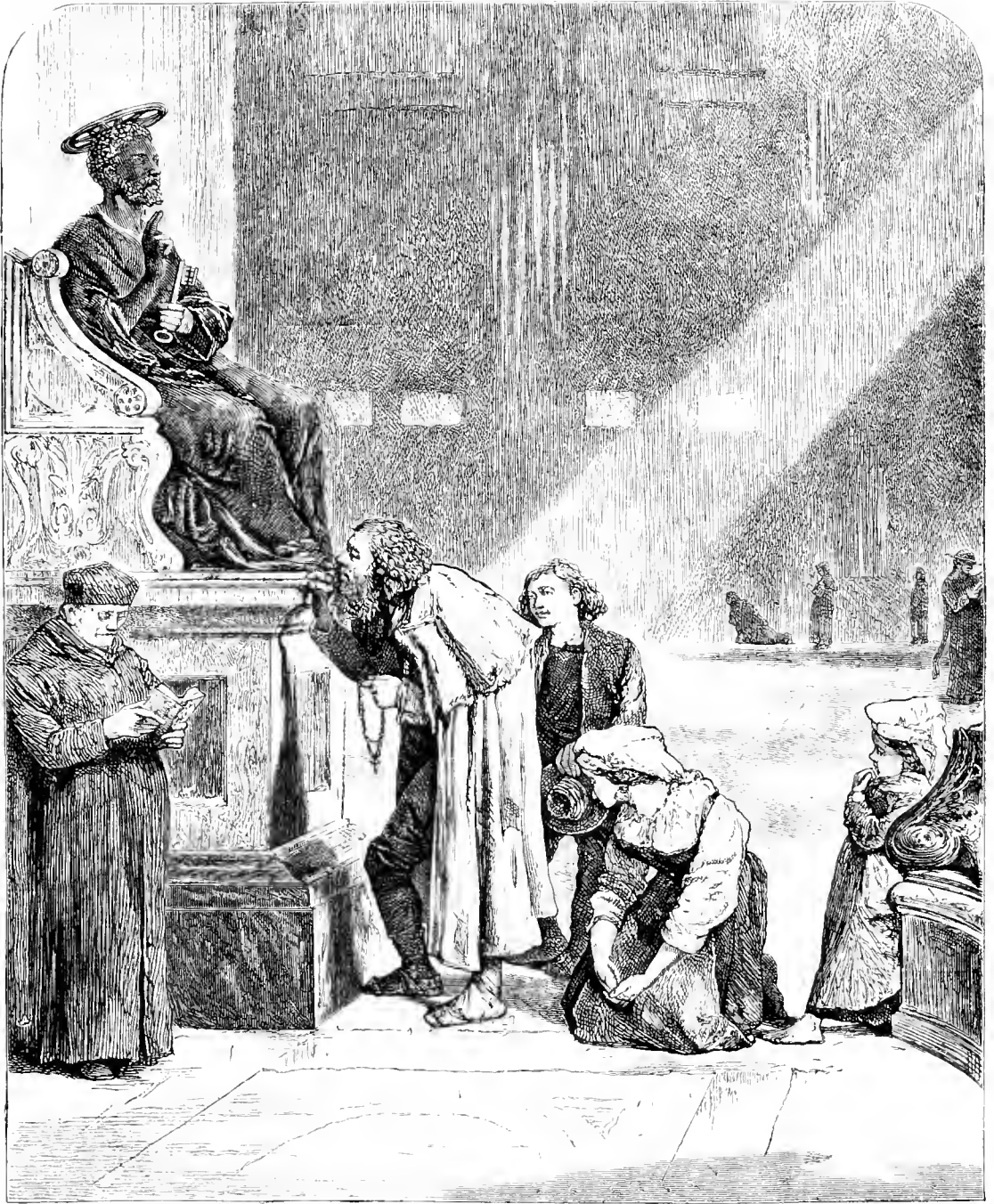




INTERIOR OF ST. PETER'S.







THE STATUE OF ST. PETER.

architects ; but little was done in his time beyond the strengthening of the four pillars already reared. After the deaths of several architects and popes, Paul III. committed the superintendence of the edifice to Michael Angelo ; but he did not live to complete it, though he carried the dome, according to his own design,

# ST. PETER'S.

to its present height. The building was undertaken after his decease by Giacomo della Porta, during the pontificate of Gregory xiii., who was so anxious to see it finished, that six hundred workmen were employed at it night and day, and one hundred thousand golden crowns were annually voted for its completion. Carlo Maderno, another architect, returned to the form of the Latin cross, which had been repeatedly changed and re-changed for the Greek, and completed the body of the edifice. A hundred and seventy years elapsed before this was done, and three centuries were required to bring the edifice to its present form, its progress extending over the reigns of no fewer than forty-three popes.

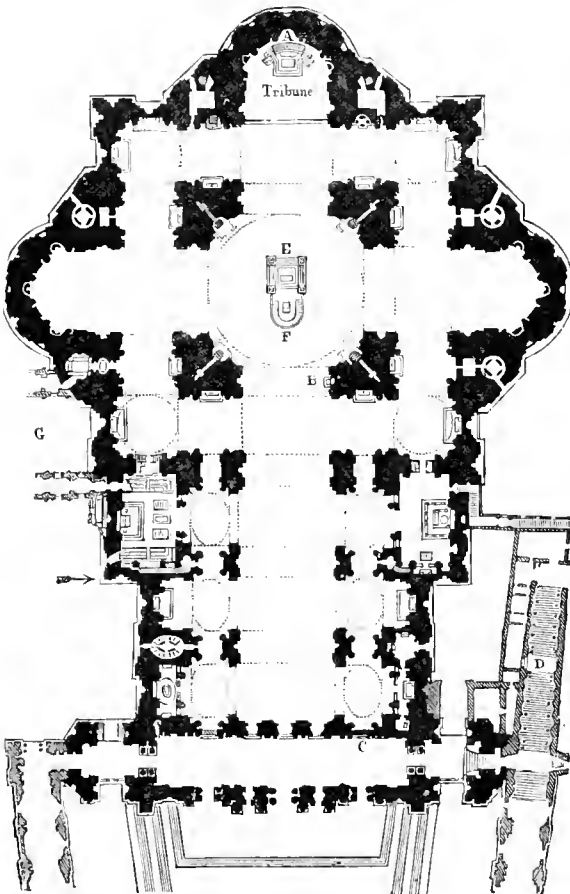
In the middle of the sixteenth century, Carlo Fontana drew up a statement of the sums of money that had been expended on it ; the total, exclusive of 405, 453 pounds of bronze used in constructing the chair of St. Peter and the confessional,

amounted to 47,151,450,000,000 of scudi, or about 11,625,000*l.* of our money.

The main front of St. Peter's is one hundred and sixty feet high, and three hundred and ninety-six feet wide ; and the remark is common, that it is more like the front of a palace than a church. It consists of two stories and an attic, with nine windows to each, and nine heavy balconies, awkwardly intersecting the Corinthian columns and pilasters.

On the floor, which is composed of large blocks of marble of singular beauty, disposed in various figures, are marked the lengths of some of the principal churches of Europe, as well as the dimensions of St. Peter's. They are thus given :

	Feet.
St. Peter's . . . . .	609
St. Paul's, London . . . .	521
Milan Cathedral . . . . .	439
St. Paul's, Rome . . . . .	415
St. Sophia, Constantinople .	356



- A. Oratory of St. Peter.
- B. Bronze Statue of St. Peter.
- C. Door of Jubilee.
- D. Scala Regia.
- E. High Altar.
- F. Confessional of St. Peter.
- G. Sacristy.

as being inconsistent with the general design, but the central nave is





ILLUMINATION OF ST. PETER'S AND FIREWORKS AT THE CASTLE OF ST. ANGELO.  
*From a Sketch by E. F. Taine, in "Rome and its Scenery."*

## ST. PETER'S.

universally regarded as surpassingly grand. Eighty-nine feet in breadth, and one hundred and fifty-two feet high, it is flanked on either side by a noble arcade, the piers of which are decorated with niches and fluted Corinthian



PROCESSION IN ST. PETER'S.

pilasters. A semicircular vault, highly enriched with sunken panels, sculptures, and various gilded ornaments, is thrown across from one side to the other, producing the most splendid effect.

The illumination of St. Peter's in Easter week, is one of the most imposing



spectacles in the world. The sudden burst of radiance from the ball, the instantaneous meteor-like flash over the whole cupola, the long lines of lamps bringing out into vivid relief its gigantic mass and exquisite proportions, the reflections in the spray of the great fountains, and the strange effects of light and shadow, have been often described in terms of enthusiastic admiration which sound exaggerated to those who have never seen it, but which really fail to give an adequate impression of the reality. The lighting of the lamps was effected—during the pope's self-incarceration in the Vatican it has been discontinued—by a gang of three hundred workmen, who, having previously received the sacrament, entered upon the perilous enterprise. They ascended by ladders, by a temporary scaffolding, or were drawn up by ropes and pulleys. They performed their work with such marvellous quickness, that the illumination of the whole façade and dome was often completed in from fifteen to twenty seconds.

"What impression did St. Peter's make upon you?" is a question asked, perhaps, more often than any other from visitors to Rome; and few questions are more difficult to answer. Seen from a distance—say, from the Pincian, when lit up by the morning sun, or from the Campagna in the golden light of evening—the dome rises in matchless beauty. Its height above surrounding buildings and the exquisite harmony of its proportions are then clearly perceived. It seems to detach itself from the city at its feet, and to stand out against the sky in solitary grandeur. But the view close at hand is undoubtedly disappointing. The dome is dwarfed, almost hidden, by the monstrous façade in front of it; and the façade is ineffective, partly from faults of construction, partly from the immense extent of the piazza and the colossal proportions of the colonnade inclosing it. This defect is accounted for by the fact that a succession of popes and architects were engaged upon it, each of whom endeavoured to make that part upon which he was engaged the most imposing feature of the whole. The *tout ensemble* has thus been sacrificed to the vanity and ambition of its builders.

A very curious collection might be made of conflicting judgments upon the interior of St. Peter's. Here are a few:

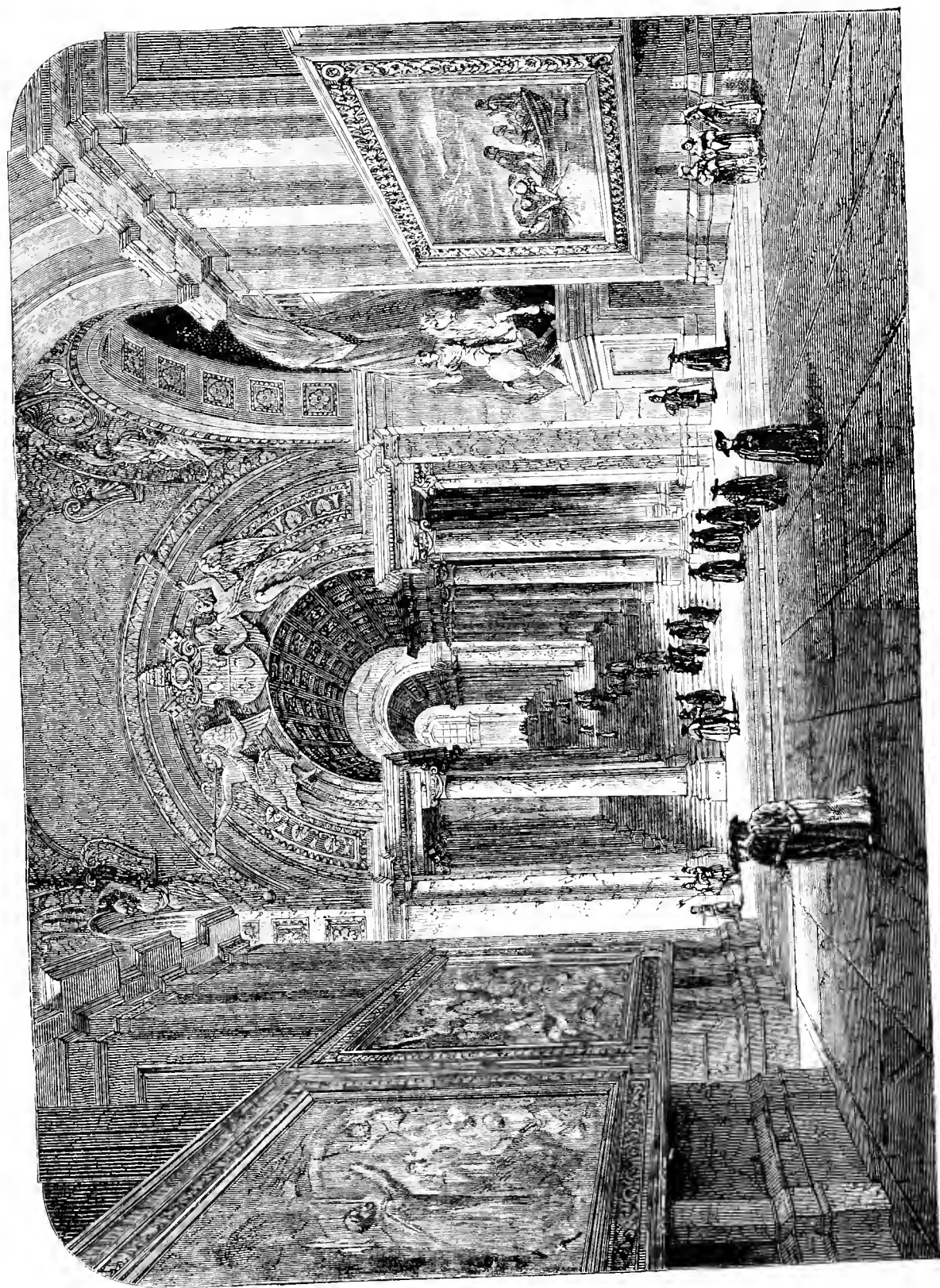
"The first view of the interior of St. Peter's makes the eye fill with tears and oppresses the heart with a sense of suffocation. It is not simply admiration, or awe, or wonder—it is full satisfaction, of what nature you neither understand nor inquire. If you may only walk aside and be silent you ask nothing more. . . . It was the work of an age when religion was a subject for the intellect rather than the heart. It is the expression of the ambitious rather than the devotional element in man's nature. A saint could scarcely have imagined it, and probably nothing less than the fiery energy of Julius the Second and the determined selfishness of Leo the Tenth's artistic tastes could have collected the treasures of richness and beauty which have been lavished upon it."\*

"Perhaps the picturesque has been too much studied in the interior. The bronze canopy and wreathed columns of the high altar, though admirably

\* *Impressions of Rome.* By the Author of *Amy Herbert*.







THE SALA REGIA OF THE VATICAN.

proportioned and rich beyond description, form but a stately toy which embarrasses the cross. The proud chair of St. Peter, supported by the figures of four scribbling doctors, is in every sense a trick. The statues recumbent on the great arches are beauties which break into the architrave of the nave. The very pillars are too fine. Their gaudy and contrasted marbles resemble the pretty assortments of a cabinet, and are beneath the dignity of a fabric like this, where the stupendous dimensions accord only with simplicity, and seem to prohibit the beautiful. Vaults and cupolas so ponderous as these could be trusted only to massive pillars. Hence flat surfaces which demand decoration. Hence idle pilasters and columns, which never give beauty unless they give also support: yet remove every column, every pilaster that you find within this church, and nothing essential to its design will fall."\*

"The building of St. Peter's surpasses all powers of description. It appears to me like some great work of nature, a forest, a mass of rocks, or something similar; for I never can realise the idea that it is the work of man. You strive to distinguish the ceiling as little as the canopy of heaven. You lose your way in St. Peter's; you take a walk in it, and ramble till you are quite tired. When divine service is performed and chanted there, you are not aware of it till you come quite close. The angels in the baptistery are enormous giants; the doves, colossal birds of prey. You lose all sense of measurement with the eye, or proportion; and yet who does not feel his heart expand when standing under the dome and gazing up at it?"†

"The interior burst upon our astonished gaze, resplendent in light, magnificence, and beauty, beyond all that imagination can conceive. Its apparent smallness of size, however, mingled some degree of surprise and even disappointment with my admiration; but as I walked slowly up its long nave, empanelled with the richest marbles, and adorned with every art of sculpture and taste, and caught through the lofty arches opening views of chapels and tombs, and altars of surpassing splendour, I felt that it was indeed, unparalleled in beauty, in magnitude and magnificence, and one of the noblest and most wonderful of the works of man."‡

"St. Peter's, that glorious temple, the largest and most beautiful, it is said, in the world, produced upon me the impression rather of a Christian Pantheon than of a Christian church. The æsthetic intellect is edified more than the God-loving or God-seeking soul. The exterior and interior of the building appear to me more like an apotheosis of the popedom than a glorification of Christianity and its doctrine. Monuments to the popes occupy too much space. One sees all round the walls angels flying upwards with papal portraits, sometimes merely with papal tiaras."§

The great ecclesiastical ceremonials in St. Peter's during the church festivals have elicited even more contradictory opinions than those expressed upon the

\* *The Antiquities, Arts, and Letters of Italy.* By J. Forsyth.

† *Mendelssohn's Letters.*

‡ *Rome in the Nineteenth Century.* By C. Eaton. § *Two Years in Italy.* By Frederika Bremer.

PROCESSIONS IN ST. PETER'S.

interior itself. For instance, on Palm Sunday the pope is borne in procession round the church, his attendants carrying immense fans of peacocks' feathers. One writer speaks of it as "the enthronisation of Christianity," and sees in it an



THE POPE GIVING THE BENEDICTION ON PALM SUNDAY.

outward symbol of the victory of the faith. Another is impressed by the illustration it affords of the essentially pagan character of the papacy, and traces numerous parallelisms between it and the ritual of heathen Rome. One writer is struck by the calm serenity of the pope, who seemed wrapt in devotion and





THE SISTINE CHAPEL.



abstracted from all earthly things. Another is amused at his evident nervousness, lest he should fall, or the bearers stumble beneath his weight. The ceremony is spoken of as being "grand and sublime in the highest degree," and as being "puerile, tawdry, and wearisome." My own report of the grand "functions" of the church in Rome would be that, whilst imposing as spectacles, they are painfully deficient in religiousness.

The chanting of the *Miserere* in the Sistine Chapel on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday in Passion Week, is commonly selected by those who insist upon the devotional character of the Romish ritual as the best illustration of it. The chapel in which this service is held forms part of the Vatican. Entering from the right of the Piazza of St. Peter's, we pass up the magnificent Scala Regia, perhaps the grandest staircase in the world, and certainly the master-piece of its architect, Bernini. At its great bronze doors are stationed the Swiss guard, in the quaint, picturesque uniform designed for them by Michael Angelo. Crossing the Scala Regia, and turning to the left, we find ourselves in the world-famous Capella Sistina. The chapel takes its name from Sixtus IV., under whose pontificate it was erected. Being only one hundred and thirty-five feet in length by forty-three in breadth, and divided into two parts by a massive screen, the visitor is commonly disappointed at its smallness, especially if, as frequently happens, he has just left the enormous area of St. Peter's. The architecture, too, is justly open to criticism. Its height is excessive, the cornices are mean and ill-placed; its ugly windows mar the general effect, and the high screen thrown across makes it look smaller than it really is. The fame of this chapel is due to the magnificent series of frescoes which cover its walls and ceiling. Here are found the finest works of Michael Angelo, which, though they have suffered much from time, neglect, the smoke of innumerable lamps, and the retouching of inferior artists, yet retain enough of their original grandeur to excite the wonder and admiration of every student of art. The ceiling, painted by the great Florentine in twenty-two months, represents The Creation, The Fall of Man, and The Deluge. Below this are the prophets, Joel, Ezekiel, Jonah, Daniel, and Isaiah, selected for representation as having specially foretold the coming of our Lord. Alternating with the prophets are the Sibyls, who, in the hagiology of the Romish church, are regarded as having announced to the heathen world the future advent of the Messiah, as the Hebrew prophets did to their own nation.

The end wall is occupied by a representation of the Last Judgment. Upon this work Michael Angelo spent seven years of almost incessant labour and study. To animate him in the task, Pope Paul III., attended by ten cardinals, waited upon the artist at his house. "An honour," says Lanzi, who records the fact, "unparalleled in the history of art."

The side walls give the history of Moses on one side, the history of Christ on the other. Considerable ingenuity has been displayed in indicating a parallelism between incidents in the life of the lawgiver and the Saviour. Thus Moses and the Israelites on the shores of the Red Sea, and our Lord and His apostles by the

Sea of Galilee ; the giving of the law on Sinai, and the Sermon on the Mount ; the punishment of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram for aspiring to the priesthood, and the call of the apostles into it, confront one another from opposite walls.

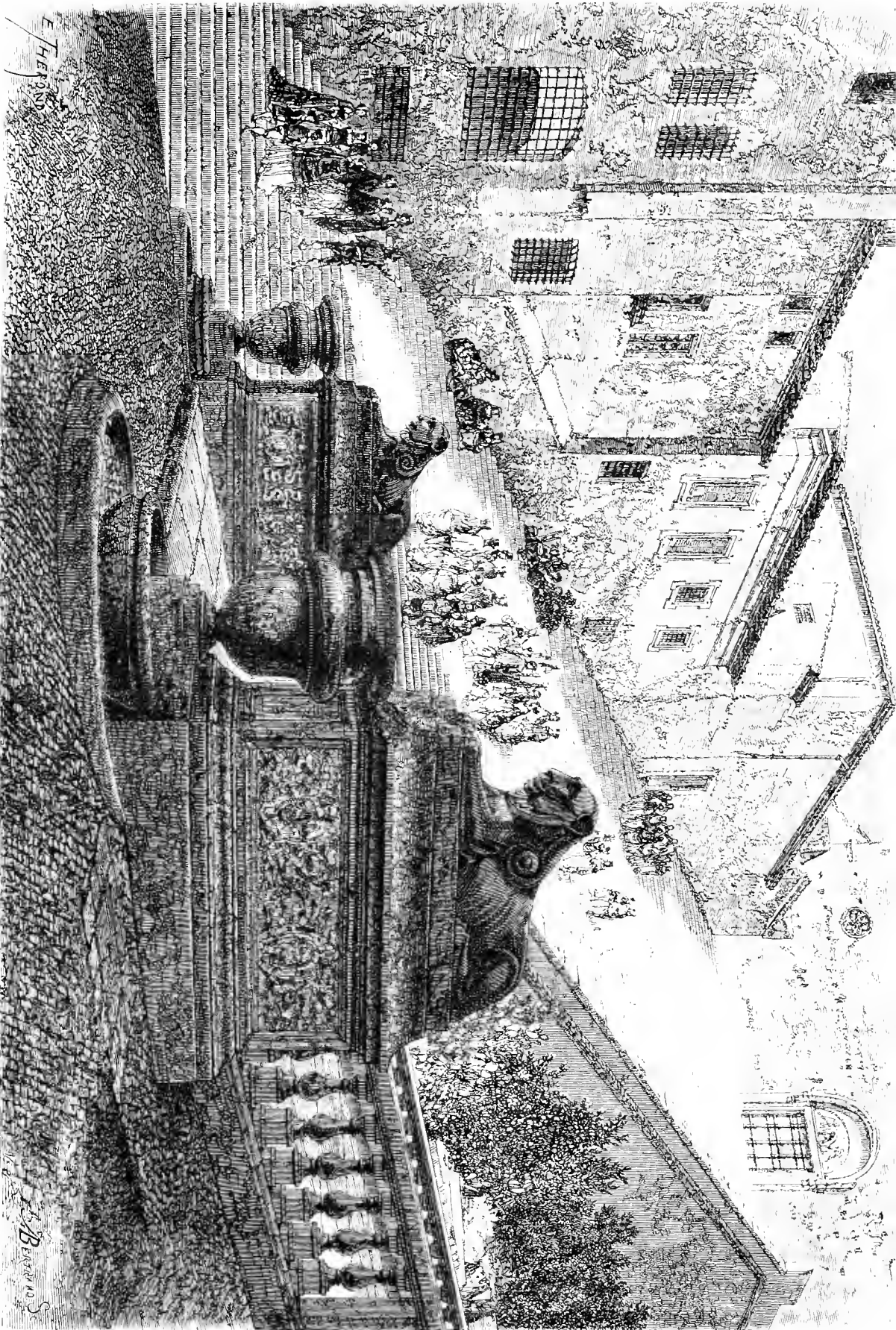
In this chapel with its amazing wealth of art, the *Miserere* is chanted on three afternoons in the Holy Week. A series of lighted candles, arranged on a triangular stand, having been placed upon the altar, the service commences by the chanting of psalms of a mournful and penitential character. With the conclusion of each psalm one of the candles is extinguished. At length only one remains lighted. Across this a curtain is drawn, so that the chapel is in almost total darkness. This part of the service is said to symbolise the gathering gloom and anguish which fell upon our Lord during that night of His agony. Others explain it of the apostles who, one after another, apostatized and lost the light of faith. The darkness which follows is held to typify the condition of the world from which the Saviour had passed away, and the single light behind the screen represents the entombed Light of the world.

The *Miserere*, the fifty-first psalm, now commences. Mr. Hobart Seymour, who cannot be suspected of any prejudice in favour of Romish ritual, says of this part of the service :

“As it is breathed by the choir—the most perfect and practised choir in the world—as it is heard in all the stillness and solemnity of the scene, wrapped in darkness, and leaving nothing to distract the eye where all looks dim and shadowy, it has a strange and wonderful effect. It is designed to express, as far as music can express, the deep and mental agonies of the dying Saviour, and certainly there never yet was heard, except among the shepherds of Bethlehem on the night of the nativity, such sounds so unearthly, and unlike the music of the world. It is plaintive, intensely melancholy, and has a powerful effect under the peculiar circumstances of the scene. The several musical compositions for the *Miserere* are the productions of the greatest composers, are stamped by the highest popularity, and all bear a similar character, being unquestionably among the most strikingly suitable and effective pieces of music in the world ; and they undoubtedly express the depths of inward and intense grief. If angels could be supposed to sigh and moan in sorrow, they might attune their harps of heaven to such music as is then sung in the Sistine Chapel.”

And yet there are many who, though they feel no repugnance to ornate ritual or religious symbolism, nevertheless find this service unimpressive and tedious. This may in part be accounted for by its excessive length, and by the dense crowding of the narrow space allotted to spectators. But in addition to these causes of dissatisfaction, the theatrical element, which intrudes into all Romish ceremonial, is especially offensive here.

One of the most curious and popular church festivals in Rome is that of “The Most Holy Bambino.” The word bambino is simply the Italian for “child,” and is specially applied to this image of “the holy child Jesus.” It is a small wooden doll, about two feet in length. On its head is a crown of gold, gemmed



STAIRS OF THE ACA CELL.

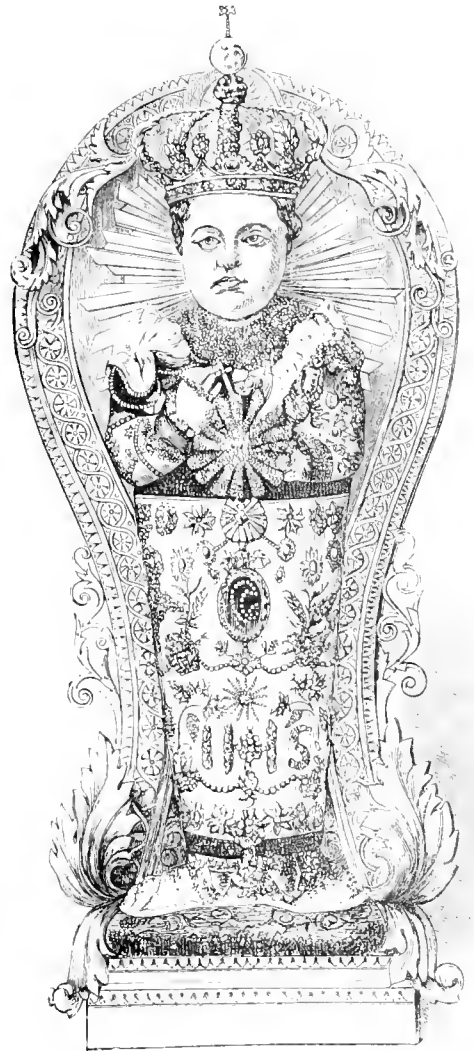


with rubies, emeralds, and diamonds. From its neck to its feet it is wrapped in swaddling-clothes. The dress is covered with jewels worth several thousand pounds—so that the Bambino is a blaze of splendour. It is said to be distinguished above all other images of the same kind by its supernatural origin, history, and the miraculous cures it effects. Ara Cœli, the name of the church and convent where it is kept, signifies the altar of heaven.

The legend is, that it was carved in Jerusalem by a monk, from olive-wood, near the Mount of Olives. Whilst he wrought at the image, various marvellous things came to pass. Being in want of colours for painting the figure, he betook himself to prayers, fastings, and other mortifications. He then fell asleep, and when he awoke, lo! the image was, by a prodigy, become the colour of flesh. He bowed down before it in adoration, and then set off with his treasure to Rome. The vessel in which he sailed was wrecked, but the image did not sink with the ship. By a miracle it was transported to Leghorn. The news of this being soon spread abroad, devout people sought it out, and brought it to Rome. On its being exhibited, the people wept, prayed, and sought favour from it.

It is stated, that on one occasion a noble lady took away this little image, and brought it to her house; but, after some days, it miraculously returned to the Ara Cœli, ringing all the bells of the church and convent without any person touching them. The monks ran together at this prodigy; and, to their astonishment, they beheld the image of the holy Bambino upon the altar.

But the most wonderful property of the Bambino is its pretended power to heal the sick. It is a common saying among the people of Rome, that "the little doctor," as they term it, receives more and better fees from the sick than all the medical men put together. It is brought to visit its patients in grander style; for a state-carriage is kept for it which seems a meagre imitation of some worn-out state-coach of a Lord Mayor of London. In this coach the Bambino is placed, accompanied by priests in full dress. As it passes, every head is uncovered,



THE BAMBINO.

every knee is bent, and all the lower classes, let the streets be never so wet and dirty, are prostrated in worship before it.

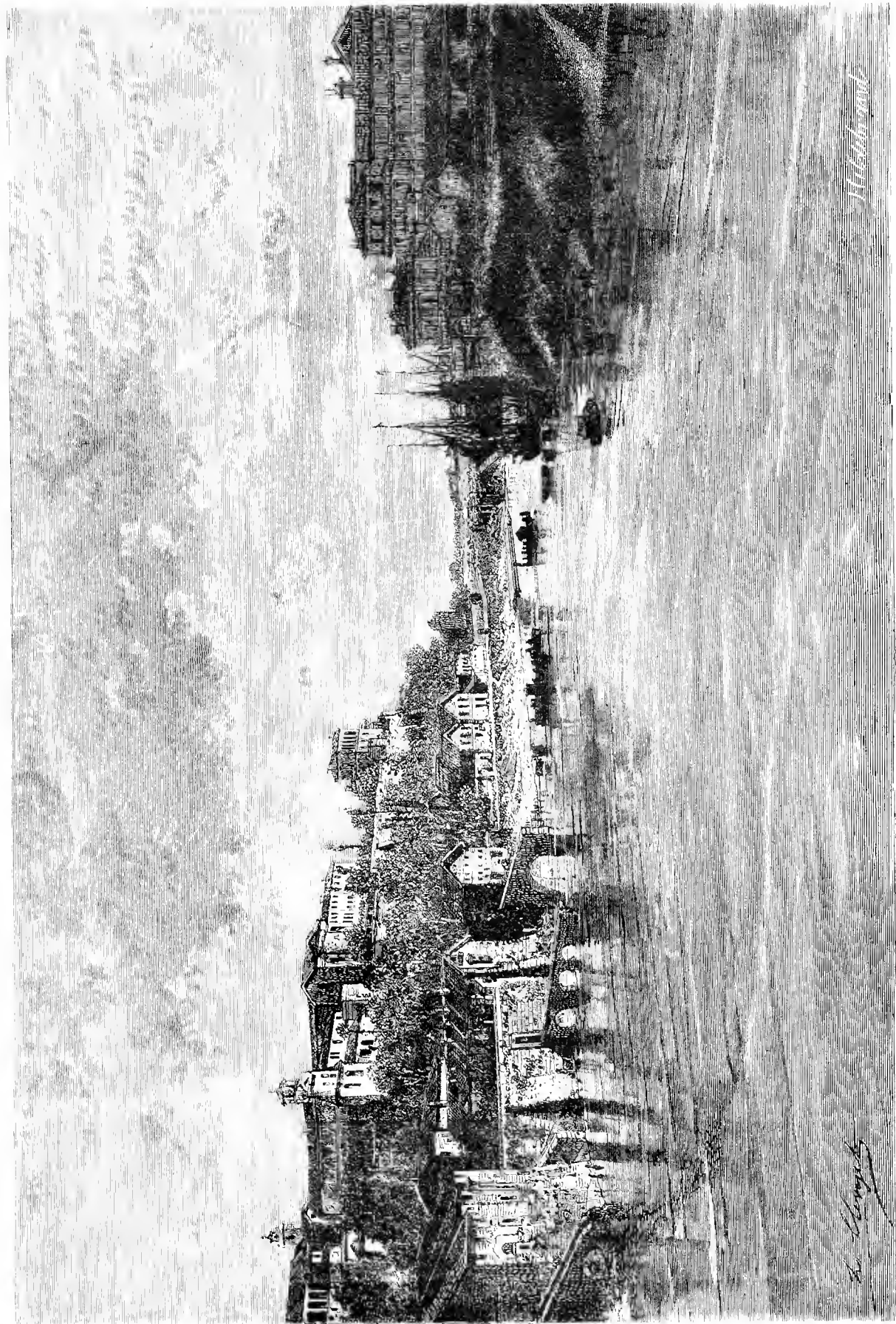
The great festival of the Bambino is celebrated annually in the church of Ara Cœli, beginning at Christmas, and ending at the Epiphany. Mr. Hobart Seymour has given a full description of what he witnessed, in his *Pilgrimage to Rome*:

“The church of Ara Cœli stands on a height, and is approached by a flight of one hundred and twenty-four steps of Grecian marble, said to be those that formed the approach to the temple of Venus in the times of heathenism. At the top of this magnificent mass of white marble is the front of the church; and it was on this spot I stood to witness ‘the blessing of the most holy Bambino,’ one of the most extraordinary spectacles to be seen in the Church of Rome. The whole space below and up the long flight of steps was thronged to excess. The masses of the people were wedged together as closely as possible. There could not be less than five thousand persons; every head uncovered, and every face upturned, gazing intently upon the scene in front of the church. And such a scene! There, at the height of one hundred and twenty-four steps above the great mass of the people, stood the priests in their splendid robes. On one side were arranged about forty monks; on the other hand about as many more; and, clothed in their sombre dresses, and waving their blazing torches in their hands, they presented a scene of the most striking kind. In the midst were the more immediate officials, holding aloft their gigantic torches; and in the centre of these again were priests surrounding the high priest, who held the little image, the Bambino, in his hand. At least one hundred torches, each in the hand of an ecclesiastic, glittered and flamed around. The incense was waved before them, and enwrapped all for the moment in its clouds and perfume. The military band filled the whole place with a crash of music, and the soldiers of the guard presented arms, as the chief priest lifted the little image—slowly lifted the Bambino—raising it above his head. In an instant, as if the eternal Jehovah were visibly present in the image, among the vast multitude gazing from far beneath, every head was uncovered, every knee was bent, and almost every living soul was prostrate before it. He raised it slowly a second time; he raised it in the same manner, only more slowly, the third time; and the muttered words of prayer ascended from the vast multitude, and told how deeply rooted among the people is this worship of the Bambino.

“The procession re-entered the church, and approached the high altar, the priest holding the Bambino before his breast in an erect position, with its back to himself. He then placed it upon the altar, and he and his assistants knelt and adored it. After a short space he again rose, and, taking it into his hands, again held the little image before him. The music of the military band rang through the arched aisles; the incense poured forth its volume of perfume; the hundred lights waved in the hands of the monks; the priest lifted the image above his head: and in an instant the whole assembly, at least two thousand souls, lay prostrate upon the earth. A thrill ran through my frame







*St. George*

*Albion*

THE TIBER AND CONVENT OF SANTA SABINA UPON THE AVENTINE.

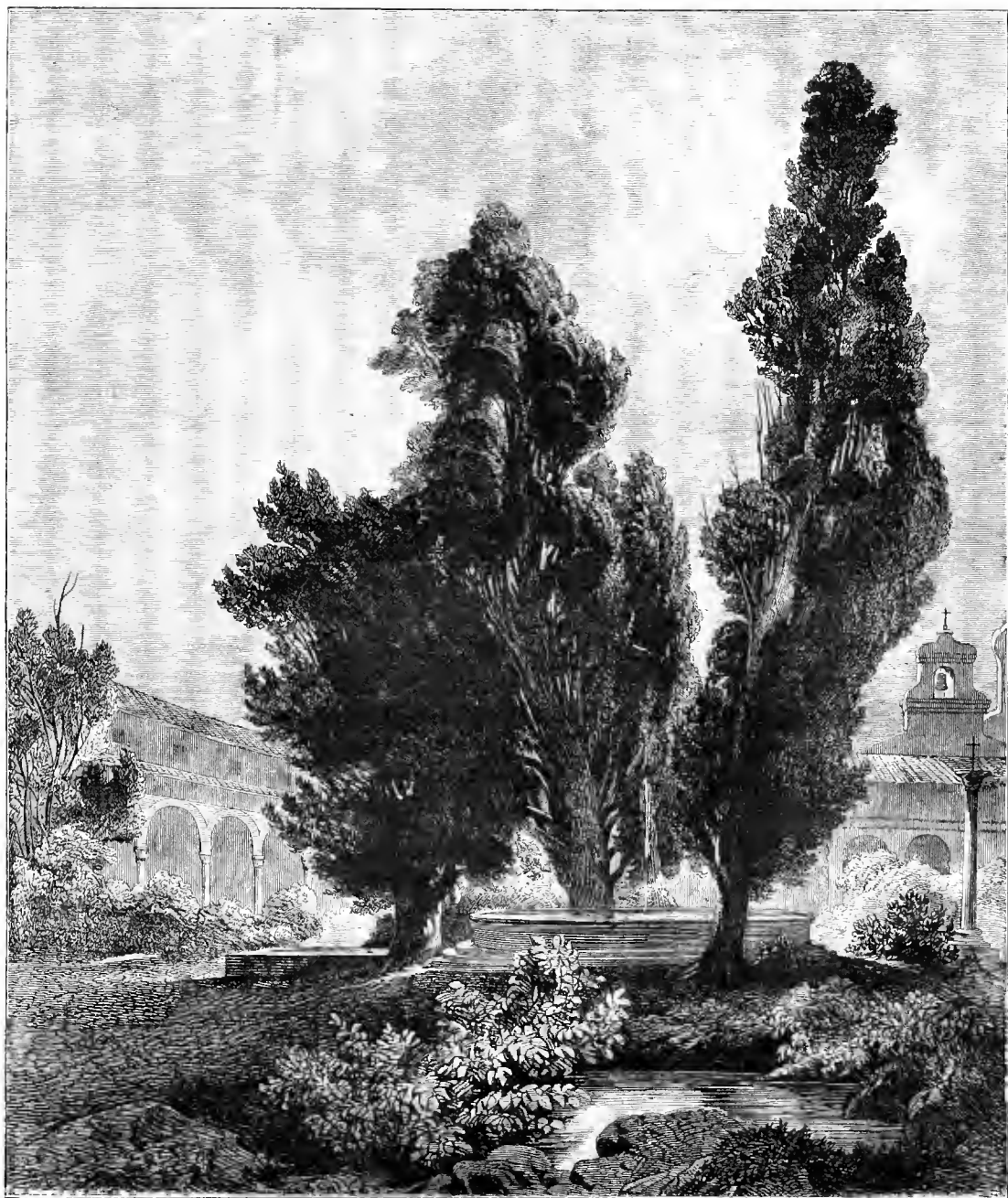
at the sight. He raised it the second time; he raised it the third time; he then slowly returned it to the altar. The people arose from their prostration, and the priests carried their idol behind the curtains, and the festival was ended." Surely this is idolatry as gross as any that was ever found in pagan Rome.

It has already been said, that the monks and nuns in Rome number nearly five thousand persons. This will account for what might otherwise seem incredible—that there are no fewer than one hundred and eighty-six conventual establishments in the city and suburbs. It would be difficult to imagine more objectionable specimens of humanity than the monks. With few exceptions, they appear to be drawn from the lowest class of Italian peasants, and the life of indolence they lead has served only to increase their demoralization.

But the monasteries themselves are, many of them, of the deepest interest. Amongst these may be mentioned that of Santa Sabina on the Aventine. The gardens which surround it command magnificent views of the city, the Campagna, and the distant hills. It was granted by Honorius III. to Dominic in the year 1216 for the monks who enrolled themselves in the order which he founded, and it has been ever since regarded as the most hallowed home of the Dominicans. An edifice going back to the date of our Magna Charta would, in any other part of Europe, be regarded as possessing a very respectable antiquity. But in Rome this is only a first step into the past. Prior to its concession to the Dominicans it had been for generations a stronghold of the great Savelli family, to which the pope himself belonged; and many parts of the building remain exactly as they left it. But it was not built by the Savelli. It had previously been a palace of the imperial period, the splendour of which is attested by the frescoes, mosaics, delicate carvings, and choice marbles in which it abounds. But we have not even yet reached the period of its first erection. The palace had been a mansion when Rome was yet a republic. The subterranean chambers had been used as prisons. In a rudely scratched inscription yet remaining upon the wall a prisoner invokes curses upon his enemies; another vows a sacrifice to Bacchus if he recovers his liberty. A skeleton found in one of the chambers darkly shadows forth the fate of one victim of Roman cruelty; and skulls and bones seem to show that this was no uncommon termination of incarceration in these dungeons. Farther back still, we find massive walls of peperino which formed part of the fortifications commenced by Tarquinius Priscus, and completed by Servius Tullius.\*

The Carthusian monastery attached to the church of Santa Maria degli Angeli, though not of equal historic and antiquarian interest, has far greater architectural beauty. It was built by Michael Angelo out of the ruins of the Baths of Diocletian, in the midst of which it stands. The cloisters, adorned with a hundred columns, enclose a vast square; in the centre is a fountain, round which the great architect planted with his own hand four cypresses. These have grown up into solemn monumental trees, harmonising well with the silence of the now deserted convent.

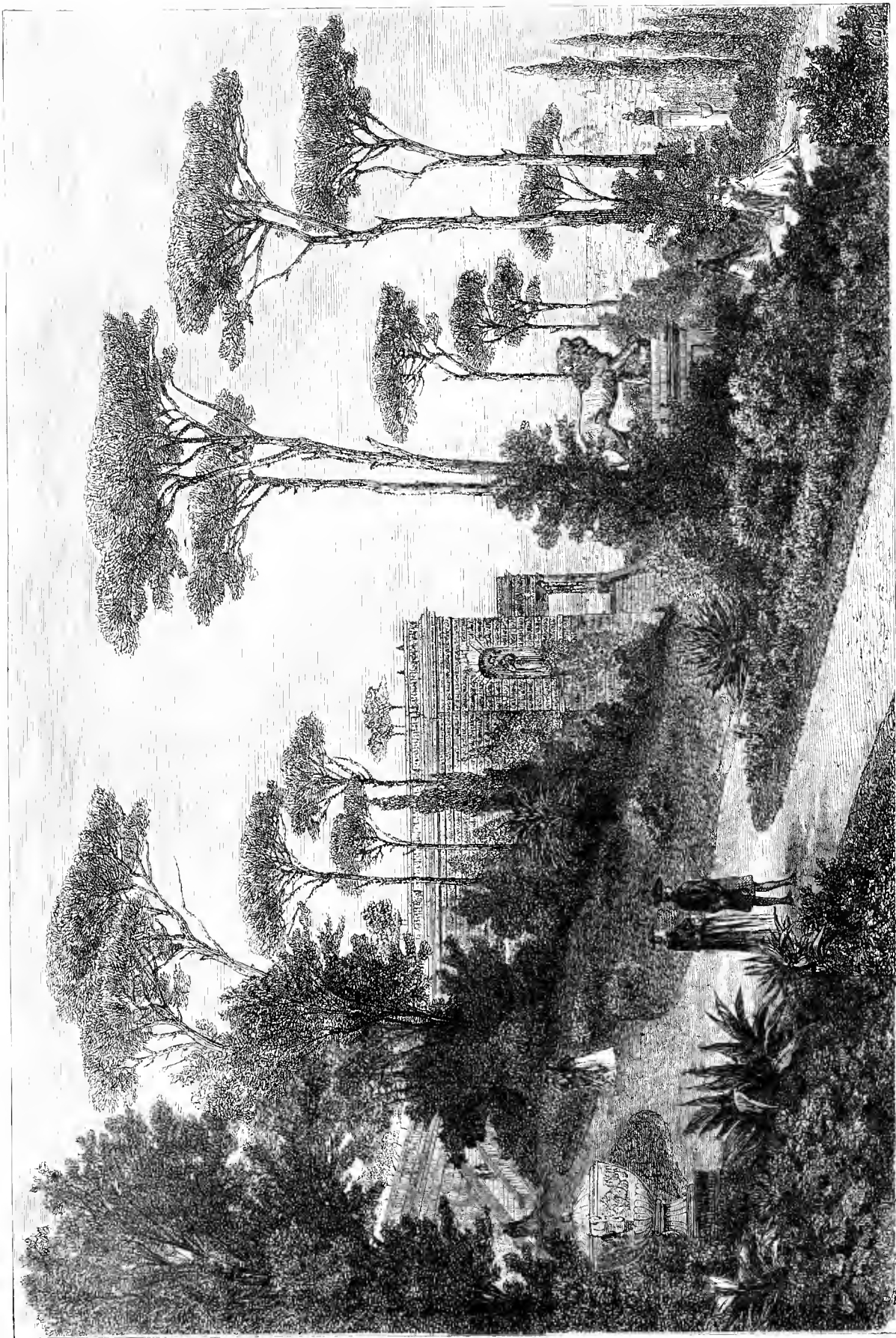
\* See *Monuments of Ancient Rome*, by Hemans.



CLOISTERS OF THE SUPPRESSED CONVENT OF SANTA MARIA DEGLI ANGELI.

It is very often with a sense of unexpectedness that the visitor to Rome finds omnibuses at the railway station, cabs in the streets, gas in the houses, telegraphs, newspapers, and other appliances of modern civilisation. He has been so accustomed to think of the Eternal City only in its historical associations that these things seem out of keeping in such a spot. They are, indeed, innovations





IN THE BORGHESI GARDENS, ROME.



of a very recent date, and were resisted almost to the last by the papal government.\* But the tendencies of the age were too strong even for the intense conservatism of the pontificate, and the annexation of Rome to Italy has only accelerated changes which had become inevitable. The rapid increase of population under the new *régime* is calling into existence a new city on the vacant spaces once occupied by the Baths of Diocletian, which, leaving old Rome intact, will be not inferior to the finest boulevards of Paris.

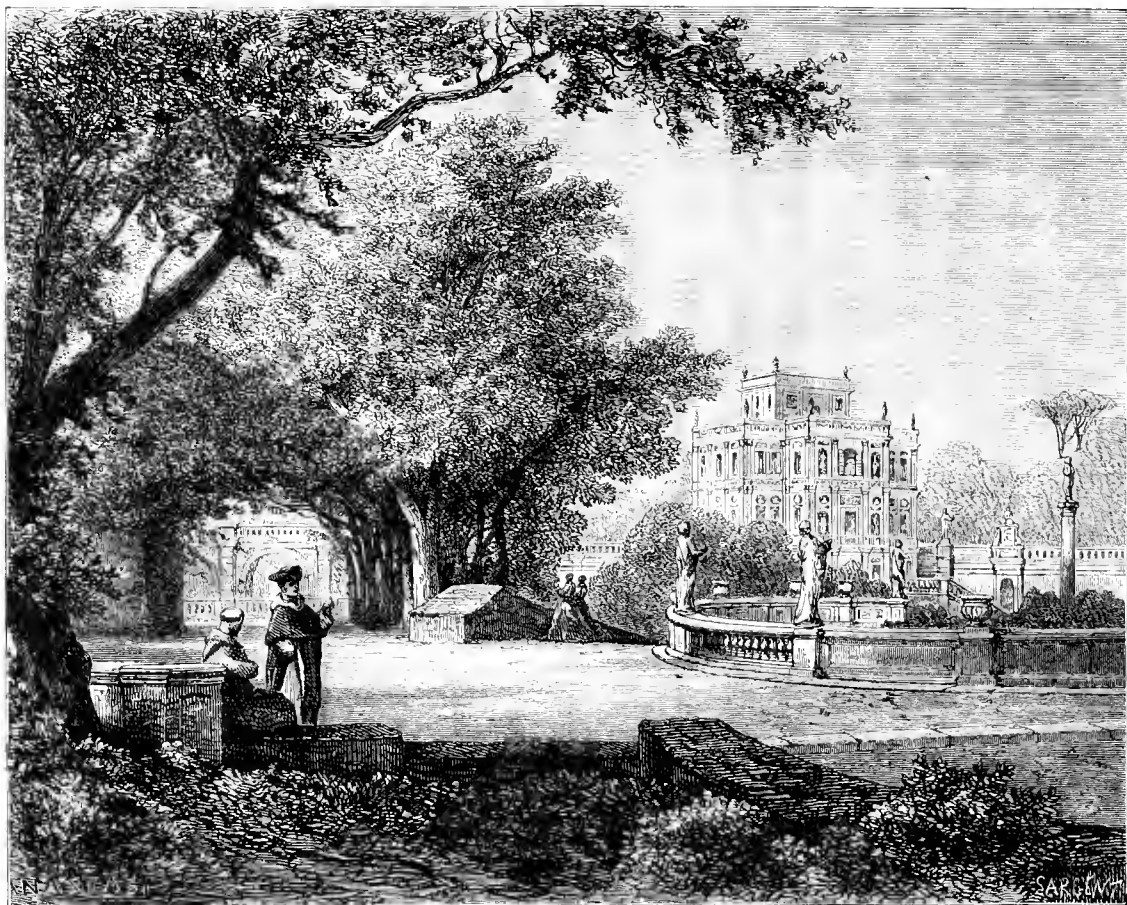
The place of fashionable resort, alike for residents and visitors, is the Pincian. Here, every afternoon before the pope and cardinals had doomed themselves to a voluntary imprisonment within the walls of the Vatican, might be seen dignitaries of the church with their old-fashioned carriages and shabby-genteel attendants, jostled by Roman nobles, Russian princes, American millionaires, and innumerable visitors from our own island home. From the small extent of the drive, the number of equipages looks much greater than it really is. At first they seem to be nearly as numerous as in Hyde Park or the Bois de Boulogne; but gradually one perceives how short a period elapses before the return of a carriage to any given point, and a more correct estimate is formed of the numbers present.

A more lovely spot for a drive or lounge scarcely exists in Europe than that on the Pincian. On the one hand St. Peter's rises in solemn, stately beauty from the city lying at its feet, the Tiber winds along its sinuous course far out into the Campagna, and the Campagna stretches away to the hills, blue in the distance. On the other hand are lovely gardens bright with flowers, verdant lawns, fountains falling into marble basins, and avenues of ilex and acacia lined by innumerable statues.

Sloping from the Pincian are the Borghese gardens at one end, and those of the Villa Medici at the other. The readers of Hawthorne's *Transformation* will remember the enthusiastic admiration which he lavishes upon these and the other gardens attached to the villas round Rome. It is difficult to say which of them is the most beautiful. Each has its special and characteristic charm. Ampère, no mean judge, gives the palm to those of the Pamfili Doria on the Janiculum, styling it *la plus charmante promenade de Rome*. Those of the Villa Medici (now the academy for French art-students) have much of the stiffness and formality of the *renaissance*, with clipped hedges and straight walks; it has, however, a beauty of its own, partly caused by the profusion of works of art which adorn

\* At the death of Gregory XVI., Pasquin gave a humorous description of the pope complaining of the length and tedium of the journey, and expressing his extreme surprise at the great distance of Paradise from the Vatican. He is told by his guide that, if he had permitted the construction of railroads, the journey might have been easier. On his arrival, he is indignant that no preparations have been made to admit him, and that even his predecessors are not there to welcome him. The reply is that there are very few popes in Paradise, and that from want of a telegraph to Rome no communication had been possible. Arriving thus unexpectedly, he is invited to use his own key to open the gate; but to his consternation finds that by mistake he had brought the key of the wine-cellar instead of the key of Paradise, which had been lost some time before but not been missed till now.

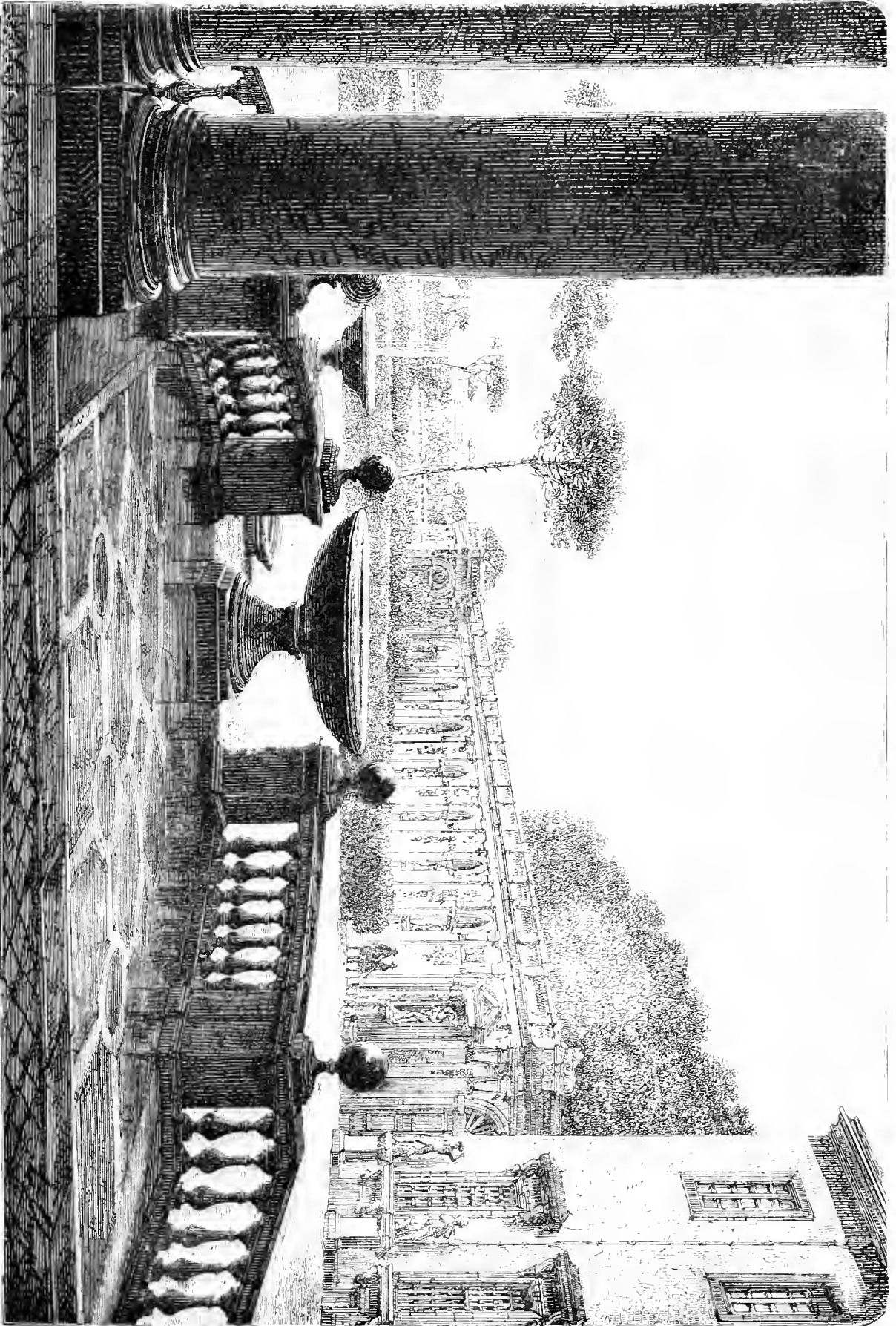
it. Most visitors will agree in the preference which Hawthorne accords to the Borghese gardens, whose "scenery is such as arrays itself to the imagination when we read the beautiful old myths, and fancy a brighter sky, a softer turf, a more picturesque arrangement of venerable trees than we find in the rude and untrained landscape of the western world. In the opening of the woods there are fountains plashing into marble basins, the depths of which are shaggy with water-weeds, or they tumble like natural cascades from rock to rock, sending their murmur



IN THE GARDENS OF THE VILLA PAMFILI DORIA.

afar, to make the quiet and silence more appreciable. In other portions of the grounds the stone pines lift their dense clumps of branches upon a slender length of stem, so high, that they look like green islands in the air, flinging a shadow down upon the turf, so far off that you scarcely discern which tree has made it. The result of all is a scene such as is to be found nowhere save in these princely villa-residences in the neighbourhood of Rome."

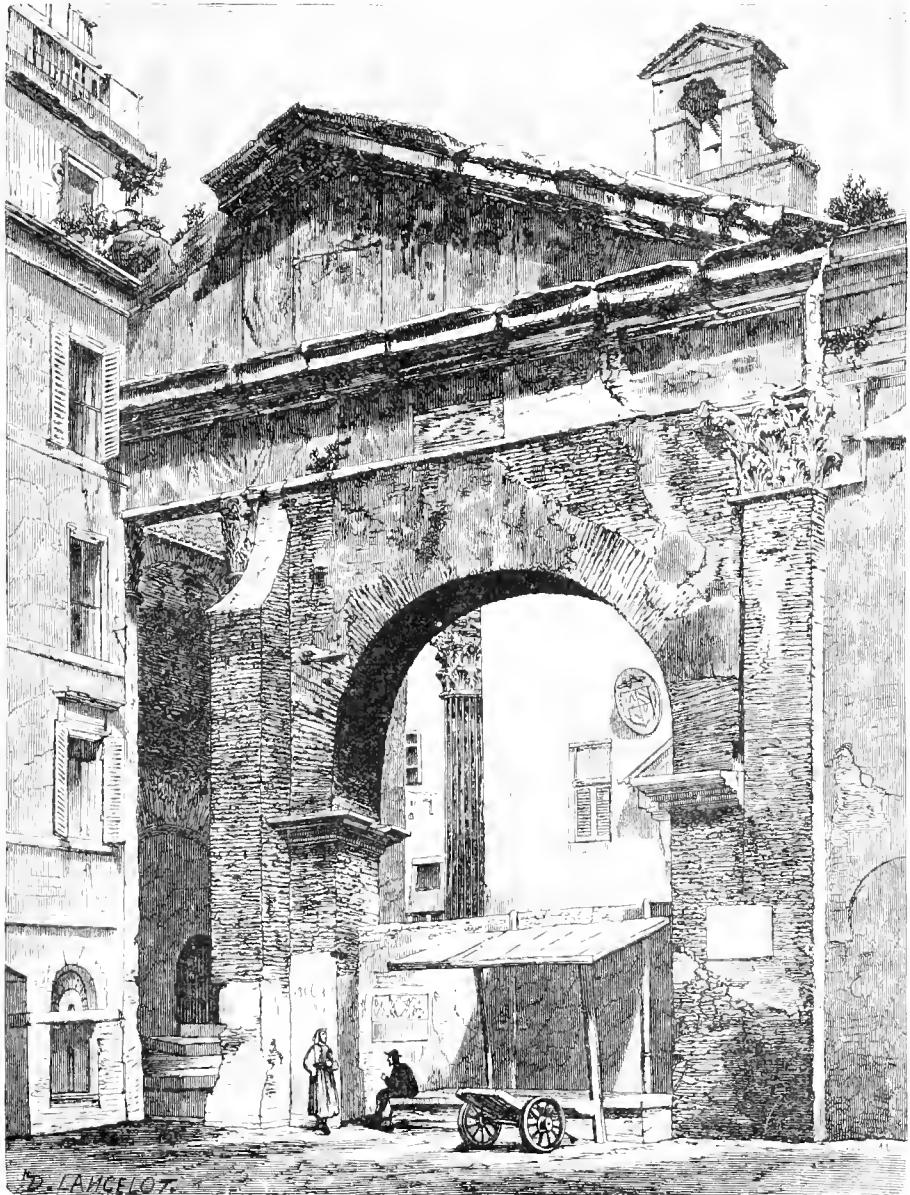
If the Pincian is the Hyde Park of Rome, the Ghetto is its Seven Dials. Its narrow streets, reeking with all evil odours, are filthy beyond description.



UNDER THE PORTICO OF THE ACADEMY OF FRANCE.



Even the foulest back-slums of St. Giles's seem decent in comparison. Within this narrow space, which only affords sufficient room for less than a thousand persons, upwards of four thousand Jews are huddled together.\* For many



RUINS OF THE PORTICO OF OCTAVIA, IN THE GHETTO.

centuries they were treated with frightful cruelty, and every possible indignity was heaped upon them. They were forbidden to reside out of this loathsome quarter, and might not pass beyond its limits except with the distinctive badge

\* A recent census gives the number of Jews resident in Rome as 4400.

of their nation—a yellow hat for the men, a yellow veil for the women. They were compelled to run races in the Corso at the Carnival, stripped to the skin, with only a narrow bandage round the loins, amidst the jeerings and execrations of the mob. Every Sunday they were driven into the church of St. Angelo to hear a sermon on the crimes of their forefathers and their own depravity and hardness of heart. All trade was forbidden to them except in old clothes, rags, and what we know as marine stores. They were ground into the dust by taxes and confiscations of every kind, and to procure the slightest alleviation of their sufferings were compelled to pay large sums to their oppressors. It was only under the reign of Pius IX. that they were relieved from some of the most degrading of these indignities.

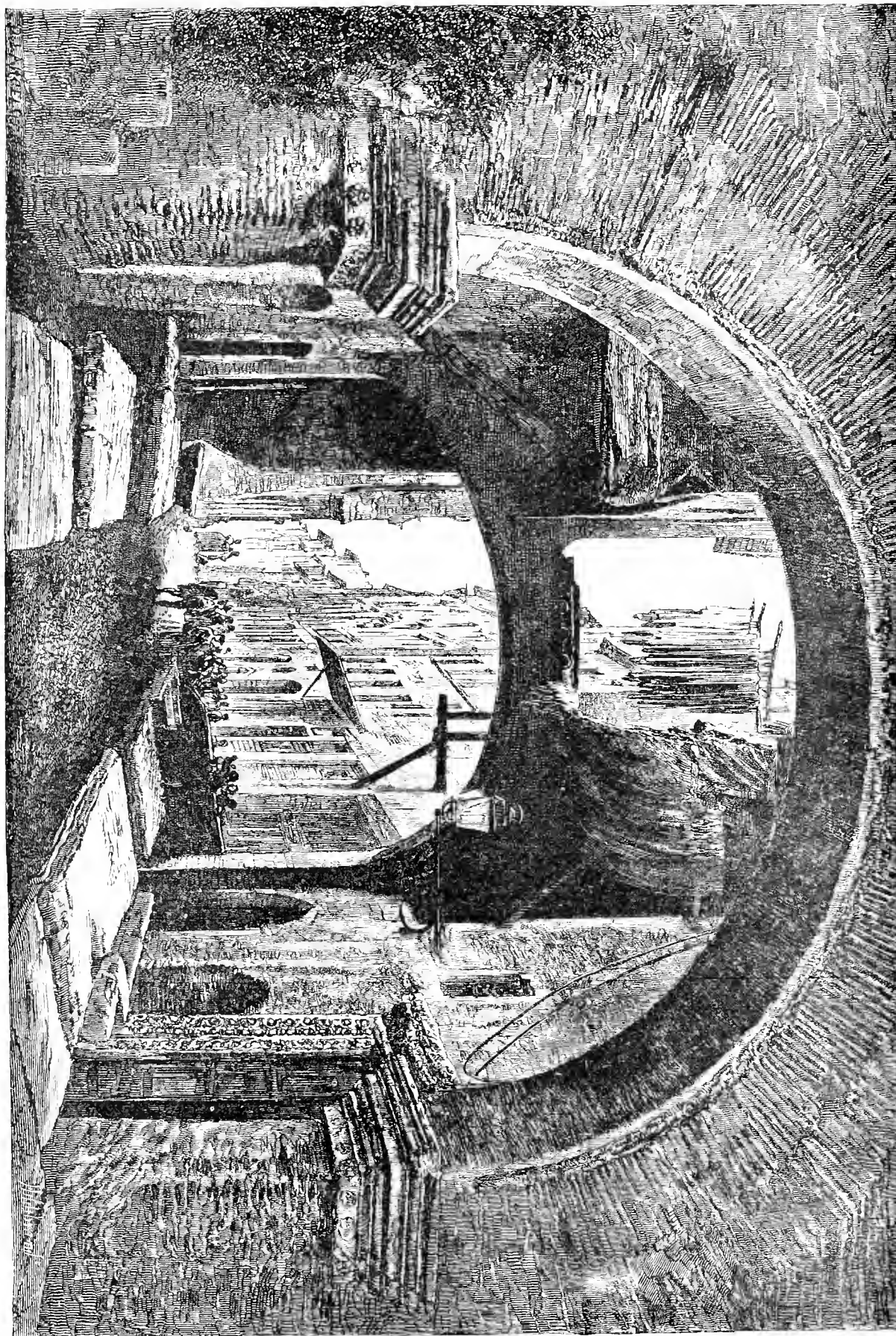
Notwithstanding the filth and overcrowding of the Ghetto, and though it is inundated almost every year by the overflowing of the Tiber, yet it is the least unhealthy quarter of Rome. It suffers far less from the malaria than the neighbourhood of the Pincian, and, in the outbreak of cholera in 1837, fewer persons died in the Ghetto than in any other part of the city. It does not, however, follow from this that the Ghetto is a healthy residence. The general death rate of Rome is, as nearly as possible, double that of London.\*

Sir George Head gives an interesting account of a visit to the Ghetto: "On entering the gate, the appearance of the people within seems to correspond with the miserable lazaretto where, in the capital of Christendom, they live in a painful state of toleration, such as one might well imagine nothing short of the insuperable attachment common among mankind to the spot of their nativity could prevail upon them to endure; and they are, in fact, a squalid, abject-looking race compared with the Hebrew people of other nations. Their principal street passes from the Piazza di Pescheria to the Piazza de' Cenci, directly through the enclosure in a direction parallel to the Tiber, a narrow thoroughfare, bounded on both sides by dirty houses crowded with women and children, seated on the ground before every door, sorting rags, mending old garments, and such-like occupation. Anxious invariably to attract the attention of a stranger, they invite him to enter their dwellings, where, notwithstanding that the appearance of things without is sufficient to appal the uninitiated, I have been assured, by persons better acquainted with the neighbourhood, that brocades, fine lace, and other valuable articles of female dress are at all times to be procured. Small as is the space within the walls, and though the streets and houses are eminently characteristic of poverty everywhere, they have several parochial divisions, and a synagogue; of which the door being open on the day I visited the Ghetto, I entered, and found myself in the most miserable-looking chamber imaginable, where half-a-dozen or more infirm old Hebrews sat shivering in tattered cloaks on a winter's day round a pan of charcoal,

\* In the first week in February 1872, the deaths in Rome were 224, which, making allowance for the difference in the population, is equivalent to 2688 in London. The deaths returned by the Registrar-general for that week were only 1320—just one-half.



ENTRANCE TO THE GHIETTO BY THE PESCHERIA VECCHIA.





chanting the music of their service. The contrast between the cracked voices of these poor old men, the chilly air of their synagogue, and their dismal melody, with the full sonorous tones of the priests and friars, and the genial warmth of the Roman Catholic churches, was particularly striking. The synagogue is, in fact, literally nothing more than a common room of rather large size, which, with the exception of cases or cupboards for the books and implements of their worship, with doors ornamented with carving, is totally void of decoration. Here, instead of the brilliant wax lights of the churches, they have the most homely description of lamps conceivable, suspended from the ceiling by a miserable substitute for a lustre—a large plain wooden hoop, with iron rings on the circumference, and in each of the iron rings a coarse glass vessel containing oil and a small floating wick.”\*

It is a curious coincidence, or something more, that the Ghetto occupies the site of the magnificent portico of Octavia where Vespasian and Titus celebrated their triumph after the downfall of Jerusalem. “Over this very ground,” says Mr. Story, “where the sons and daughters of Zion drive their miserable trade in old clothes, and where the Pescheria breathes its unsavoury smells, were carried in pomp the silver trumpets of the Jubilee, the massive golden table of shewbread, the seven-branched candlestick of gold, the tables of the law, the veil itself, from behind which sacrilegious hands had stolen the sacred utensils of the altar; and in their rear, sad, dejected, and doomed, followed Simon, son of Gorias, loaded with clanking chains, and marching in the triumphal train of his victors to an ignominious death.” Here, too, among the spectators, stood Josephus, the Jewish historian, parasite, and flatterer, to whose pen we owe an account of the triumph.

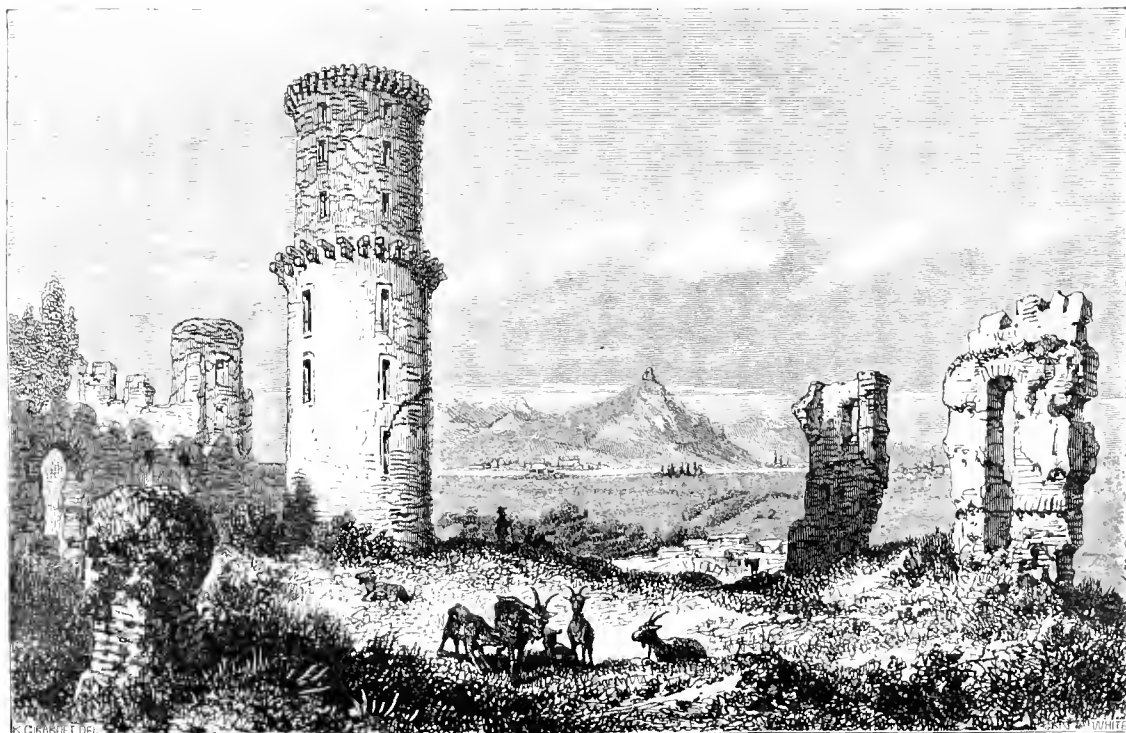
Rome has been too recently opened to the gospel to allow of any detailed statement of its progress in the city of the popes. It is enough to say here that progress is made, the Word of God is read, evangelical books and tracts are widely circulated, and numerous congregations are gathered. To those who deride, or distrust, the efforts now making in Rome to preach Christ crucified as the only Saviour, the following remarks from the annual report of the Religious Tract Society may be commended :

“If there be one fact calculated to stir the heart and hope of the evangelical churches of Europe, it is that Rome—the carefully and successfully preserved centre of the hierarchical system, which for so many centuries has been using science, art, literature, religion for the subjugation of mankind to a false Christianity involving the supreme authority of a priestly caste—is now open to all the influences of modern civilisation, and to the dissemination of scriptural truth. Contrasting that caste, in their polished manners, high training, magnificent temples, firmly compacted ranks, and in their still almost unbroken influence over the old nobility and the unlettered poor, with the humble preachers of

\* *Rome: a Tour of Many Days.* By Sir George Head.

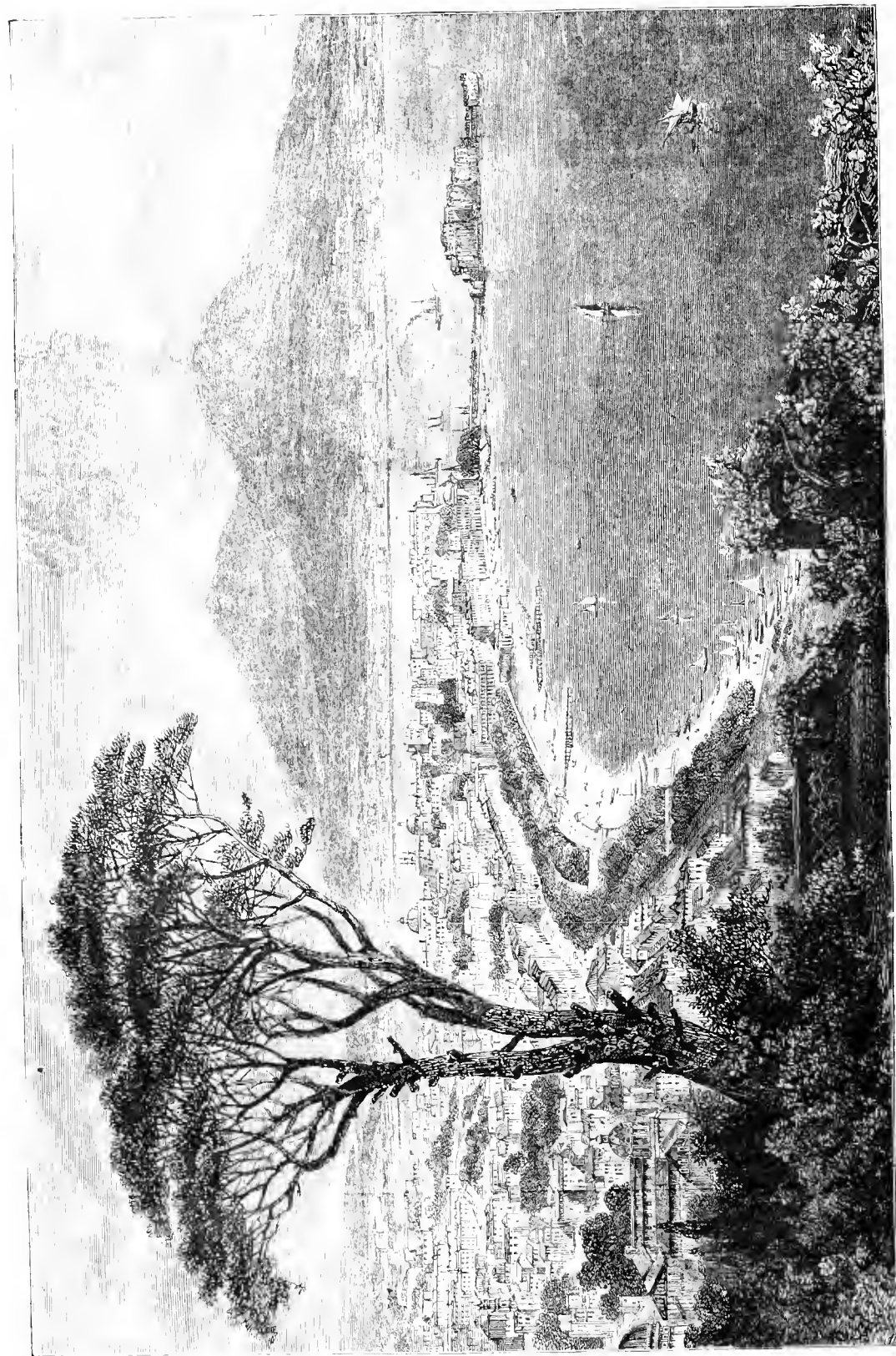
the gospel, and their humbler auditors in unadorned and not unfrequently in-commodious meeting-rooms, even philosophers—who are supposed to appreciate the power of ideas—might smile contemptuously at the hope that the evangelicals can seriously affect the position and power of the priesthood.

“But encouragement is furnished by the past; for still more contemptuously might the philosophers of heathen Rome have smiled if, while the palace of the Cæsars, and the temples of the gods, and the triumphal arches of the conquerors, and the columns of the Forum existed in a glory that seemed immortal, they had been told that the Christ preached by the chained Paul would be recognised in after ages as the only God incarnate, while every deity which then attracted its crowds of ardent worshippers was in the dust—every altar overthrown, and the temples themselves but melancholy ruins to tell of what once had been. Yet so it was. Christian ideas, however slowly, however enfeebled by pagan admixture, however degraded by the false charities of their teachers to the familiar idolatries of their ancestors, did yet silently, gradually, irresistibly supplant the religion of old Rome. What has been may be; and evangelical religion, however apparently weak for the present, may—nay, rather will—yet subdue even full-blown popery, though sustained by the blind policy of governments, by the attractions of sculpture, of painting, and of music, by the tongue of the subtle, or the poet’s song.”



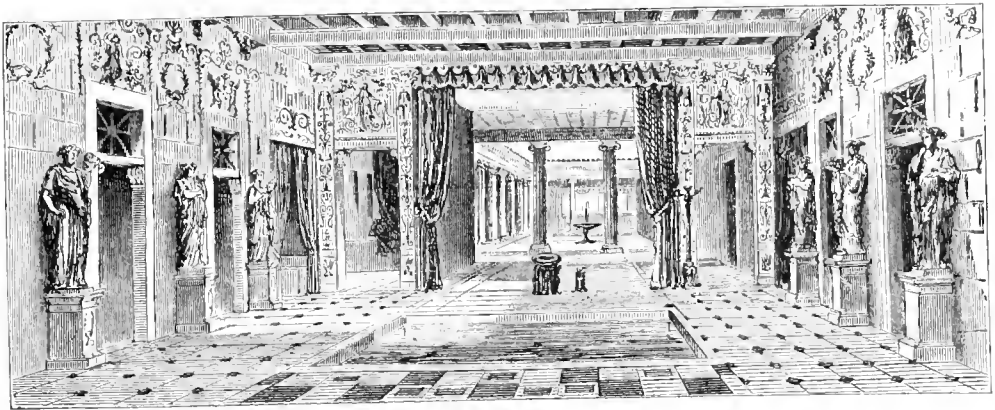
RUINS ON THE ROMAN CAMPAGNA.

NAPLES AND POMPEII.

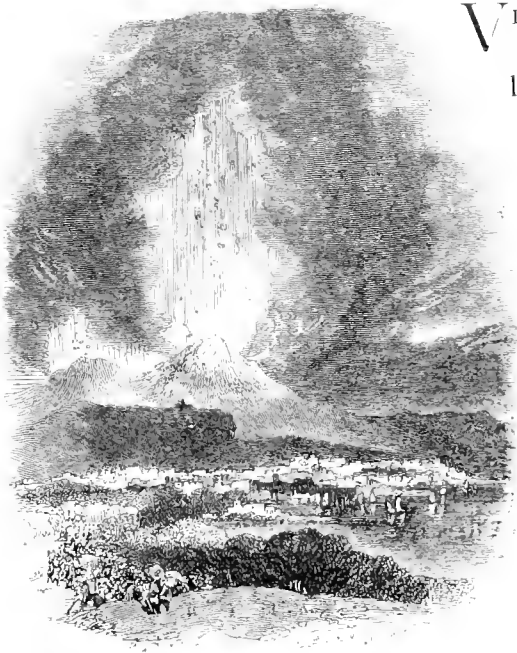


NAPLES.





## NAPLES AND POMPEII.



VEDI NAPOLI E POI MORI. *See Naples and die.* So says a familiar Italian proverb. If we understand its meaning to be that having seen the Bay of Naples we may not expect, in this life, to look upon a lovelier scene, the proverb hardly goes beyond the limits of exact and literal truth. Such richness of colour, such play of light and shade, such marvellous combinations of sea and coastline, of fertile plains and barren mountains, and vine-clad slopes and white-walled cities, can surely not be found elsewhere. From the days of Cicero and Horace its beauties have been the theme of innumerable writers, who, in prose and poetry, have vied with each other in enthusiastic admiration.

"This region, surely, is not of the earth!  
Was it not dropt from heaven? not a grove,  
Citron, or pine, or cedar; not a grot,  
Sea-worn and mantled with the gadding vine,  
But breathes enchantment! Not a cliff but flings  
On the clear wave some image of delight,  
Some cabin-roof glowing with crimson flowers,

## THE BAY OF NAPLES.

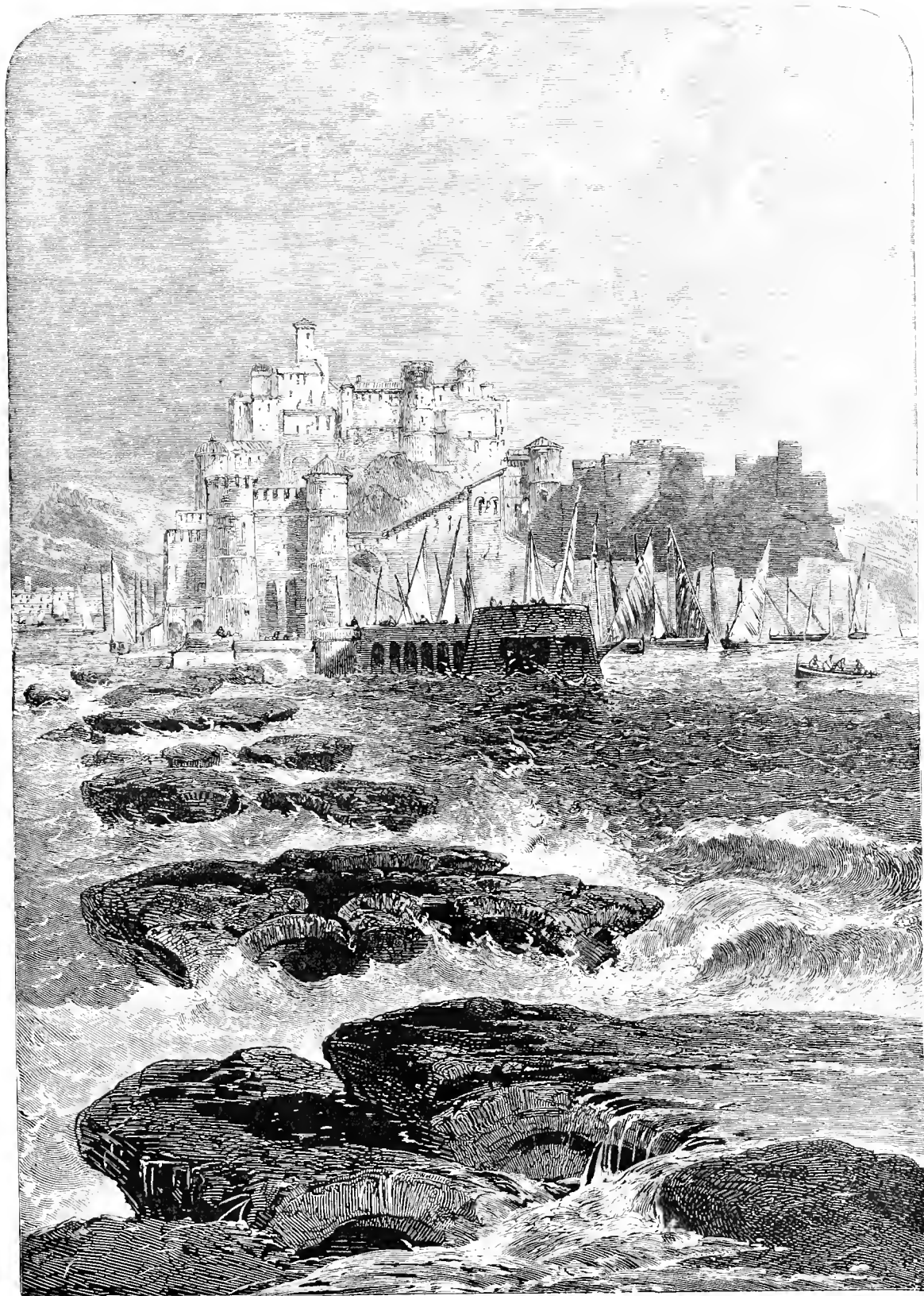
Some ruined temple or fallen monument,  
To muse on as the bark is gliding by.  
And be it mine to muse there, mine to glide,  
From daybreak, when the mountain pales his fire  
Yet more and more, and from the mountain-top,  
Till then invisible, a smoke ascends,  
Solemn and slow, as erst from Ararat,  
When he, the Patriarch, who escaped the flood,  
Was with his household sacrificing there—  
From daybreak to that hour, the last and best,  
When, one by one, the fishing-boats come forth,  
Each with its glimmering lantern at the prow ;  
And, when the nets are thrown, the evening-hymn  
Steals o'er the trembling waters."\*



ISLAND OF ISCHIA.

Properly to appreciate the scene, we should approach the city from the sea. Better still, we should linger on one of the islands which guard the entrance of the bay long enough to familiarise the mind with the beauty which lies around us.

\* Rogers' *Italy*.



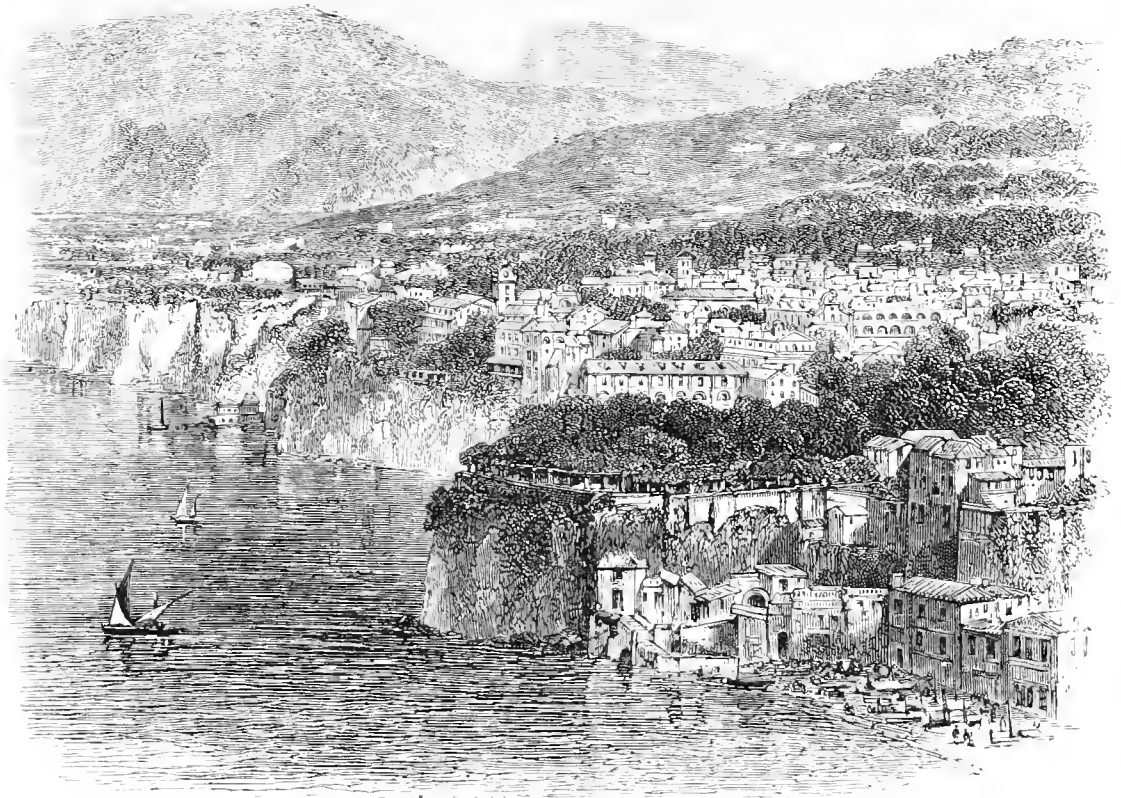
POZZUOLI, THE ANCIENT PUTEOLI.

*Acts XXVIII.*



## THE ISLAND OF CAPRI.

Let us take our stand on the terrace of the Hotel Tibère, in the centre of the island of Capri. At our feet is a picturesque village whose flat and domed roofs have a distinctly oriental character, and would be seen without surprise in Syria or Egypt. Steep conical hills rise on every side. Each is crowned with a mass of ruins, many of which go back to the time when Tiberius held his infamous orgies here; others are remains of the strongholds erected by Saracen and Norman pirates, who, for successive generations, contended for supremacy



SORRENTO.

along these shores. An almost precipitous descent, terraced into orange gardens and vineyards, leads down to the shore. Before us is the bay, about fifty-three miles in circumference. Its waters are intensely blue, and so clear, that sailing across it we can see the dolphins gambolling far down below our boat's keel, and as they shoot up above the surface they dash the water into spray, which sparkles in the sun like a shower of diamonds.

On our left is a group of islands—Ischia, Procida, Nisida, and others—green

## THE BAY OF NAPLES.

to the water's edge, or starting precipitously from it. Most of these are volcanic, and present the peculiar configuration which characterises this formation. The horizon bounding the whole is formed by mountains which rise in grand and imposing forms, among which Vesuvius at once arrests the eye, not from its superior height or mass, but by the mysterious crest of smoke or flame which rests upon it.

The historical associations of the district are deeply interesting. The cave of the Cumæan Sibyl, the Phlegræan fields, and Lake Avernus, lead back our thoughts to the mythology of Greece and Rome. Miseno was the station of

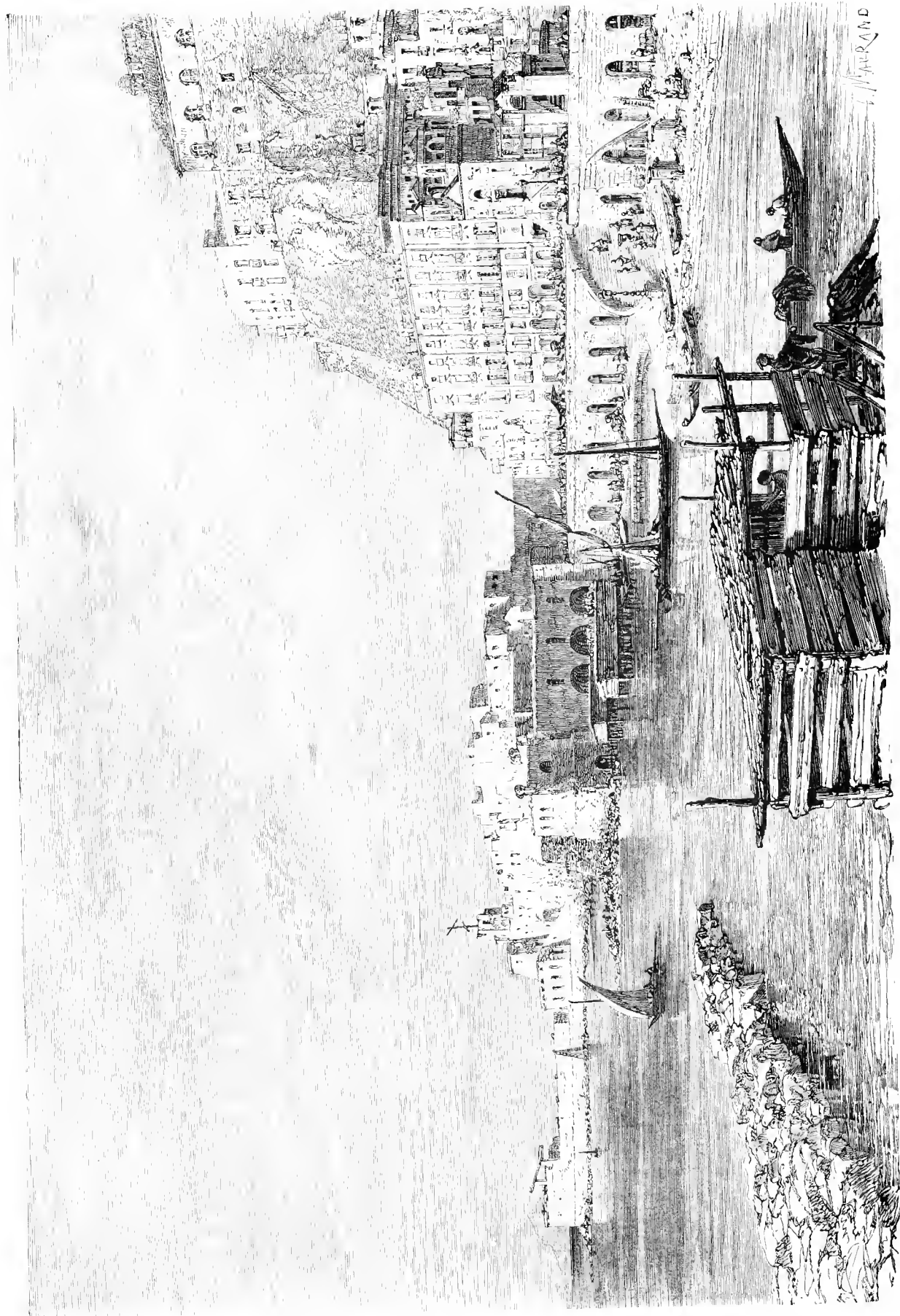


CASTELLAMARE.

the imperial fleet under Augustus. At Baiæ the wealthiest Romans had their villas. Posilipo boasts of having been the residence and the grave of Virgil. But most interesting to us is Pozzuoli, the ancient Puteoli. Here, eighteen centuries ago, a corn ship from Alexandria, the *Castor and Pollux*, having narrowly escaped wreck off Malta, cast anchor in the bay. The massive blocks of masonry, now washed over by the sea, are the foundations of the pier at which it discharged its cargo, and where stepped ashore a prisoner entrusted with a more important mission than ever ambassador had borne. It was Paul coming to appear before Caesar, and to "preach the gospel to them that were at Rome also."







QUAY OF SANTA LUCIA, NAPLES.

Following the deeply-indented coast-line, past many a spot memorable in history or famous for its beauty, we reach Naples, with its belt of gardens and palaces—a city of half-a-million inhabitants, over which rises the precipitous rock on which the castle of San Elmo stands. Curving round the head of the bay, we pass Portici, Torre del Greco, Torre dell' Annunziata, and a score of other towns and villages nestling at the foot or clinging to the slopes of Vesuvius. They mark the district where Pompeii and Herculaneum once stood. Castellamare is soon reached, lying in the bend of the bay as its shores turn westward again; and then comes Sorrento, opposite to and about nineteen miles south from Naples. About nine miles more, in a south-westerly course, and we come back to Capri, whence we started, and from whose lofty peaks or terraced roofs this scene of beauty is distinctly visible.

Apart from the beauty of its site, and the magnificent collection of works of ancient art in the *Museo*, there is not very much in Naples itself to attract or detain the visitor. The remains of classical and mediæval antiquity are few and unimportant. Its churches are devoid of architectural merit, and their decorations are in the worst possible taste. Except the theatre of San Carlo, which has the reputation of being one of the finest in the world, its public buildings are those of a third or fourth-rate capital. Its streets, crowded, narrow, and dirty though they are, have much picturesqueness; but one needs to be insensible to evil smells to linger in them. A writer who knows Naples well says of it:

“The paving is about the worst in Europe, and the drainage extremely incomplete. Evil odours are more abundant in Naples than any other Italian city, and the warmth of the climate at once adds to their number and intensifies their quality. . . . The sun shines his brightest, and the zephyrs blow their softest; the sea is of the deepest blue, and the mountains of the most glorious purple. Nowhere is there lovelier scenery for the poet and the artist; nowhere finer fish, sweeter fruit, or better game for the *gourmand*. The oysters of Frisaro are equal to those of Milton or Faversham, or the Rocher de Cancale; and macaroni—there is no need to discuss the macaroni of Naples. Now all these are, undoubtedly, advantages, and, to counterbalance them, I am obliged to confess that Naples is an ill-built, ill-paved, ill-lighted, ill-drained, ill-watched, ill-governed, and ill-ventilated city. If you look at it from the sea, it is most beautiful; if you enter from the south, over the bridge Santa Maddalena, you will have a favourable impression; if you keep to the Chiaja—which is quite the west end, and ought not to be called the city at all, for the whole mass of buildings lies to the north-east—if you keep to the Chiaja and the Strada de Toledo, and one or two more of the principal streets and places, you may preserve your first impressions; but if you wander extensively on foot, you will say of Naples what is frequently said of Constantinople.”\*

\* *Naples and Sicily under the Bourbons*. By Mrs. Ferrybridge.

To one seeking only amusement from intercourse with his fellow-men, a more amusing, vivacious, indolent set of vagabonds than the Neapolitan lazzaroni can scarcely be found. They seem to spend their lives in laughing, talking, and gesticulating. Wearing the smallest possible modicum of clothing, subsisting day by day on a piece of bread or a handful of macaroni, with a slice of melon, an onion, or a morsel of cheese as an occasional luxury, caring for no other amusement than that of laughing at the humours of Polichinello, paying no house-rent



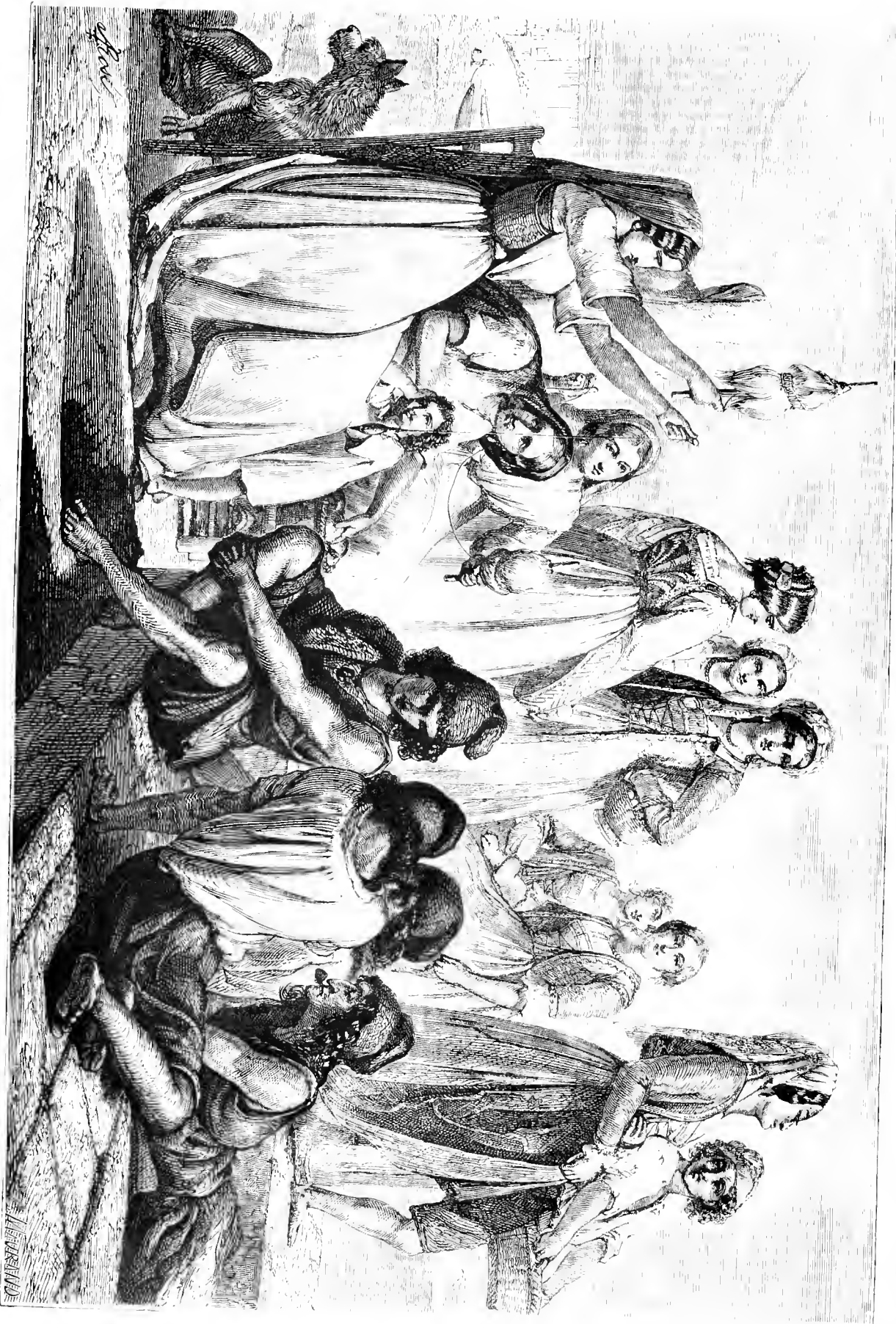
NEAPOLITAN POLICHINELLO.

or taxes, their wants are few indeed; and until the suppression of the monasteries by the Italian government, these were supplied by the misplaced doles of the monks. The author just quoted sums up the practical morality of the Neapolitans in three maxims:—I. Never do to-day what you can possibly put off till to-morrow. II. Never do for yourself what you can possibly get anybody else to do for you. III. Never pay for what you can possibly get upon credit.

But this amusing picture has darker shades. Treacherous and false at all times, the lazzaroni of Naples have frequently broken out into acts of tiger-like ferocity, and, for the time, have seemed to become wild beasts rather than men. It would be impossible to defile these pages by speaking of the horrors which have accompanied the revolutions and the counter-revolutions, so frequent under the Bourbon rule. It must suffice to say that the most hideous cruelties of the Reign of Terror in France were far surpassed by those perpetrated in Naples on the restoration of Ferdinand in the year 1799. Atheism in the one case, and the most degraded superstition in the other, have written two of the bloodiest pages in the history of modern Europe. And in both countries evangelical religion had been persecuted to the death.

At the dawn of the Reformation, Naples took the lead among the Italian cities in the adoption of its principles. Juan Valdez, Ochino, and Peter Martyr had united in teaching that the Bible was the only rule of faith, that salvation was to be found in Christ alone, and that the dogmas of Rome were corruptions and perversions of the true faith. Valdez was a Spanish gentleman of high position at court. Being a layman, he did not attempt to speak in public, but diffused his principles by conversation and private intercourse. Ochino and Peter Martyr were monks, the former a Franciscan, the latter an Augustinian. They were amongst the eloquent preachers of their day, and addressed crowded congregations in the churches of St. Peter ad Aram and San Lorenzo. But persecution broke up the little company of converts. They were either cast into the dungeons of the Inquisition, or sought safety in flight. A Waldensian settlement in Calabria was at the same time utterly exterminated. Evangelical religion was thus uprooted from Neapolitan soil. As the result, Naples for

COSTUMES OF NAPLES AND THE NEIGHBORHOOD.







centuries has been given up to abject superstition, and its people have become perhaps the most ignorant and demoralised of Europe. Now civil liberty has brought religious liberty in its train. After an interval of more than three hundred years, the gospel is again preached in the district where Paul first landed on Italian soil. Already the first-fruits are being gathered in. God grant that they may be only the precursors of an abundant harvest! What the future of this lovely land may be, He only knows; but that the present is a time of trial, or turning-point in its condition, must be evident to all.

It is almost impossible to convey an adequate idea of the stir and noise which prevail in the streets of Naples, and which make it unlike any other Italian city I have ever visited. Such talking, shouting, and rushing to and fro, indeed, can scarcely be found anywhere else. It has been said with an appearance of truth that the Neapolitans talk all day long and for half the night. "The rumble of carts and carriages of every description which, with the greatest velocity and frightful shouts, cut through the crowds of people every moment, the running, struggling, pushing, and fighting, form the most extraordinary picture that can be seen in Europe. It has been computed that, at every moment of the day, more than fifty thousands persons may be found in the Toledo, with above fifteen hundred vehicles of various kinds; coachmen, cartmen, muleteers, and pedestrians, all contributing to the incessant din; some swearing, some screaming, some singing, some holding forth on the new opera, others on the last lottery, and all talking even more with their hands than with their tongues. Amidst this throng of passengers, everything which can be done under the open canopy of heaven is going forward in this busy street. The shoemaker, the tailor, and the joiner are all there at work; the writer sits at his desk, and his employers stand beside him, dictating with the utmost gravity the secrets of their hearts, which they are unable themselves to indite; on one side, a begging monk is preaching from a stone-post, with the voice of a Stentor, threatening perdition to all who neglect to give him alms; farther on, a decrepid old woman is screaming out a hymn, as a penance, whilst her voice is drowned in that of a quack doctor, recommending his wares. Jugglers play their tricks, gamblers shout out the number of the game they are playing, females are stuffing mattresses, cleaning vegetables, plucking poultry, and scouring pans, all in the open way."\*

The recent suppression of monastic institutions by the Italian government has modified this graphic description in one respect. Monks no longer are allowed to ply their trade of begging in this public and ostentatious fashion. In other respects it is as true as when written a few years ago.

The number of carriages in the streets is incredible. No one walks who can possibly ride, and no one is silent who can possibly make a noise. I have counted sixteen persons in, or hanging on to, a single *corricolo*, all of them singing or shouting at the top of their stentorian voices. The little wiry horses seem to

\* *Naples, Political and Social.* By Lord B<sup>1</sup>\*\*\*.

THE STREETS OF NAPLES.

make light of their task, and canter along gaily at the top of their speed. But no better field for the labours of the *Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to*



*From the Painting by Passini.*

AT A WINDOW IN NAPLES.

*Animals* could be found than Naples. Wretched, worn-out hacks are made to draw the heaviest loads, and are goaded to a gallop by blows, which would draw down execrations upon the driver in our London streets.

MENDICANT FRIARS NEAR NAPLES.





## NAPOLITAN FUNERALS.

The interment of the common people in Naples is conducted with a revolting disregard of decency, such as is to be seen in no other city in the civilised world.



NAPOLITAN FUNERAL.

The better classes are buried by confraternities, as in Rome and other Italian towns. The members of the confraternity take charge of the funeral, and in



their strange and hideous garb accompany the corpse to its last resting-place. For the poor no such ceremonial is provided. Pits are dug in the two *Camposanti*, into which the dead bodies are flung pell-mell, uncoffined, and often quite naked. In one—the *Camposanto Vecchio*—there are three hundred and sixty-six of these pits. One of them is opened every day in the year, at evening, and into it are thrown the bodies of those who have died during the day. It is then closed up until, at the expiration of twelve months, it is reopened again to receive its ghastly freight. We in England complain of the useless and lavish expenditure incurred upon funeral rites. The very poor will often involve themselves in debt to do honour to the memory of the departed. But anything is better than this frightful indignity offered to the dead.

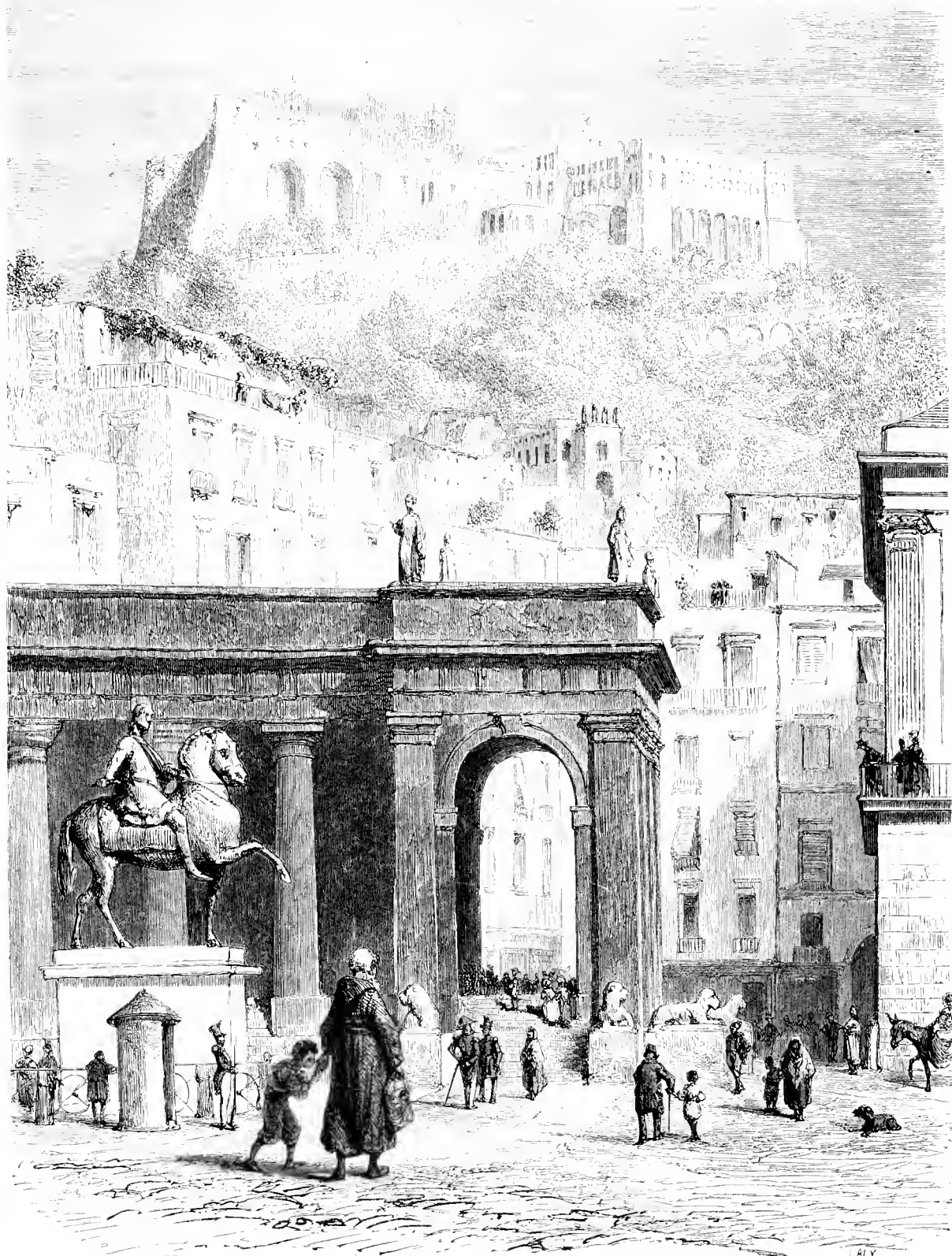


COOKING UTENSILS FROM POMPEII, IN THE MUSEUM AT NAPLES.

Reference has already been made to the great interest and value of the contents of the Museum at Naples. Its collection of works of Greek and Roman art is unsurpassed. Even the great galleries in Rome do not contain finer bronzes and marbles. With the exception of a small museum which has recently been formed at Pompeii itself, all the movable objects found in that city and at Herculaneum have been deposited here. As might be expected, they form a collection which is absolutely unique. The domestic life of people who lived eighteen hundred years ago is laid bare before us. We see the implements of trade, the tools of the artisan, the weights and measures of the shop-keeper, the cooking utensils, the surgical instruments, exactly as they fell from the hands of those who were using them when they fled in wild fright from their homes. The frescoes which adorned the walls of the houses have been removed without injury, and may be studied with advantage by the house decorators of our own day.



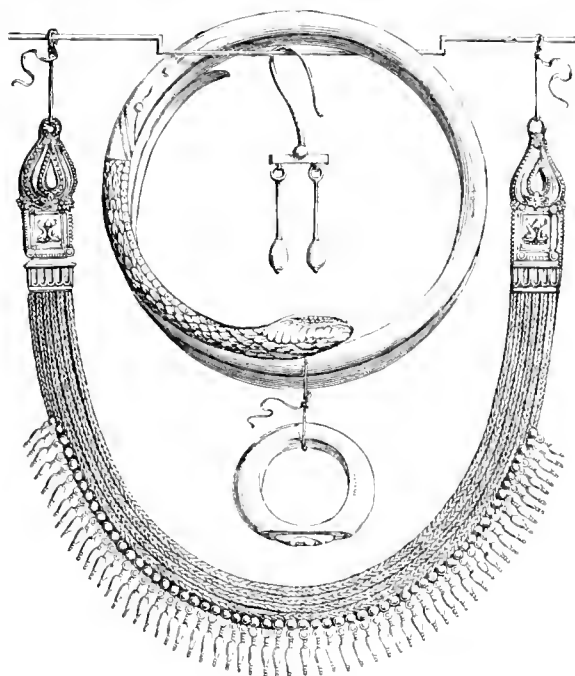




K. GIRARDEI

CASTLE OF SAN ELMO.

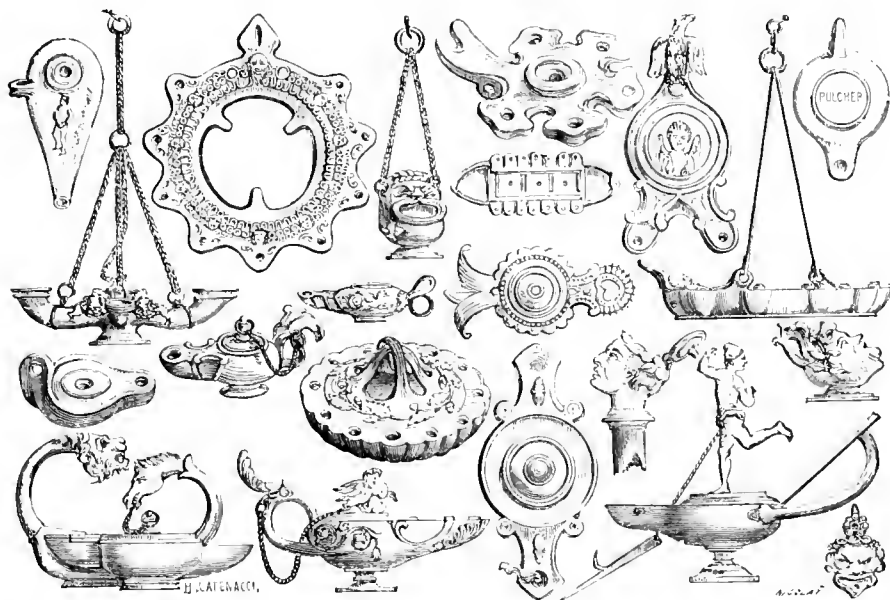
LALY



NECKLACE, RING, BRACELET, AND EAR-RING, FROM POMPEII.

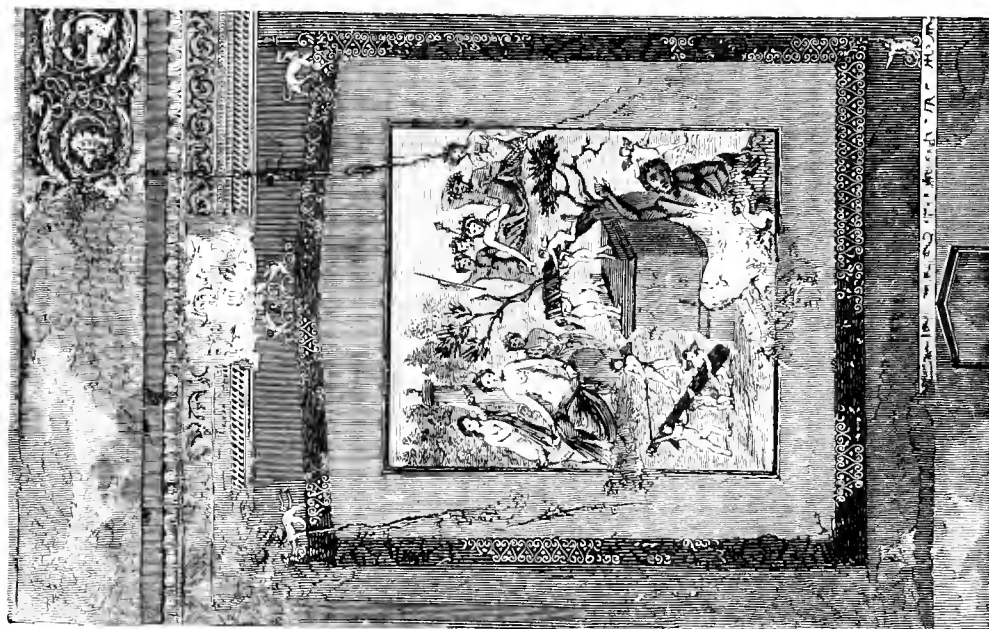
Statues, lamps, coins, jewellery, amulets, armour, weapons, are found in endless variety. It will, however, be convenient to postpone any lengthened mention of these interesting relics till we come to speak of Pompeii itself.

There is the more reason for this, because the beauty of the scenery around

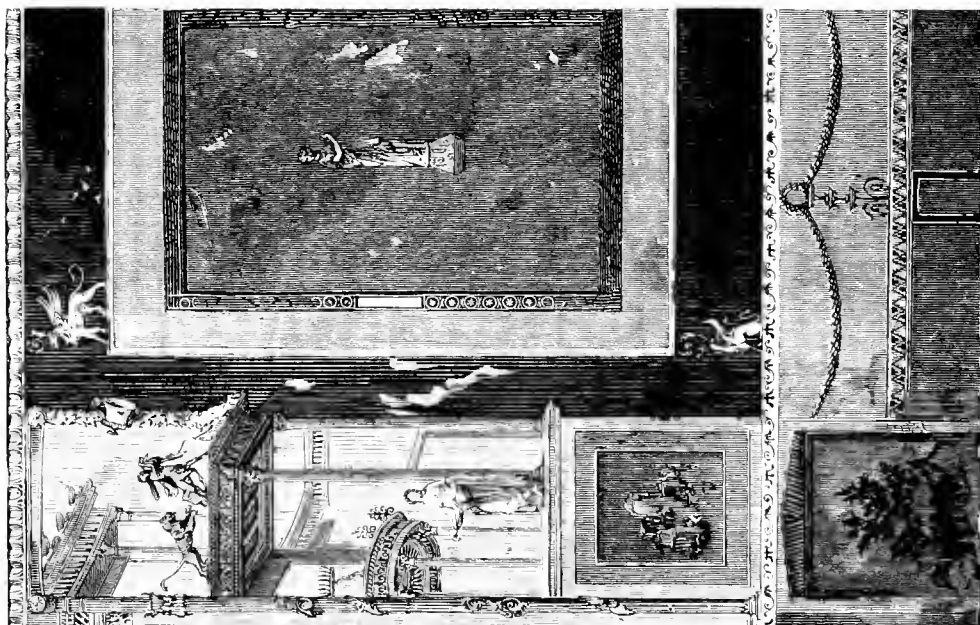


BRONZE AND TERRA-COTTA LAMPS FROM POMPEII.

# FRESCOES FROM POMPEII.



These frescoes illustrate the ordinary mode of house-decoration employed in Pompeii. The walls are painted in panels, and commonly represent some mythological subject. That on the right is Hercules overcoming by Bacchus, to whom he has been sacrificing; Cupid is sport around him, and carry off his club, whilst the hero lies in a state of helpless intoxication on the ground. The panel on the left is from an apartment in which are figures of Greek and Roman deities, about two-thirds the size of life.



FRESCOES FROM THE HOUSE OF SIRIUS, AT POMPEII.

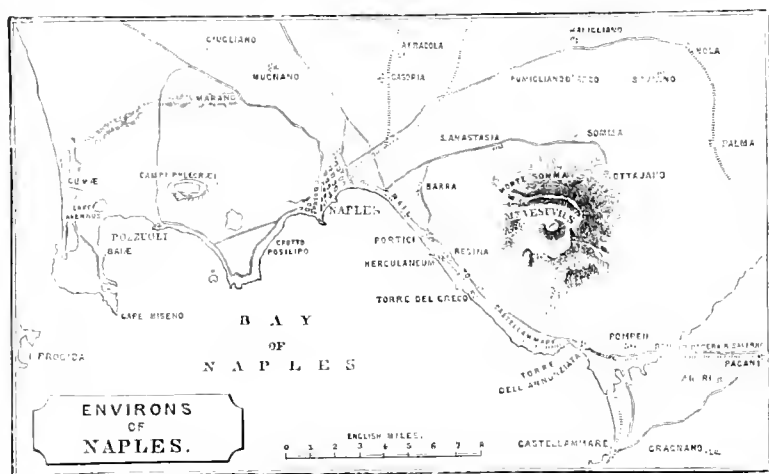
Naples is such as to make the visitor comparatively indifferent to all else. The idler in Naples may enjoy much of this beauty simply by strolling along the *Villa Reale*—a lovely promenade, said to be the most beautiful in the world, which runs along the shores of the bay. It has long avenues of trees, gardens, groves of orange and oleander, fountains, and statues. The purity of the air, the brilliant blue of sea and sky, the distant mountains, Capri Ischia, and their sister-islands out to seaward, and Vesuvius, with its column of smoke rising like a palm-tree into the heavens, form a combination of beauty which justifies the enthusiasm of all who have attempted to describe it.

Even more striking is the view from the bay when Naples itself comes in to form part of the picture. The city is in the form of an amphitheatre, curving round the shore and rising up the slopes which culminate in the precipitous rock on which the Castle of San Elmo stands. A complete panorama is thus formed, on every point of which the eye may rest with delight. One evening I well remember, in which the scenery appeared too beautiful to belong to earth. We were returning from Sorrento late in the afternoon. The landscape was bathed in a flood of golden light as the sun went down into the sea behind Ischia. The stars began to peep out one by one till "the floor of heaven was thick inlaid with patines of bright gold," all lustrous with a brilliancy of which we in these northern latitudes can form little conception. As it grew darker the column of smoke on Vesuvius became lurid, and little tongues of flame could be seen leaping up as though from the throat

of a furnace. The whole line of coast from Baia round to Sorrento could be traced by the lights of innumerable towns and villages and hamlets, glittering like glow-worms, or like the lamps of some vast illumination. And every dip of the oars, and every stroke of the paddles of the vessels

amongst which we were moving, threw up a shower of diamonds from the phosphorescent sea. As we approached Naples, strains of music—for it was a *festa*—and the roar of the great city, softened by distance, fell soothingly upon the ear. It was impossible not to remember old Izaak Walton's sentiment, and ask oneself—If God gives such beauty for us sinful creatures here on earth, what must He not have prepared for His saints in heaven!

But we must leave Naples and proceed to Pompeii. It is with a strange feeling that one goes to the railway-station and asks for a return ticket to a city



## POMPEII.

which was in its glory when our Lord was upon earth, which passed out of existence when the Apostle John was yet living, and which is now being disintombed after an interment of eighteen hundred years. Stranger still is it to step out of the train into Pompeii itself, and in a few seconds find oneself in the silent streets of the long-buried city.



GENERAL VIEW OF POMPEII.

*From a Photograph.*

The railway from Naples to Pompeii curves round the head of the bay, and following the line of coast, runs through the towns of Portici, Resina, Torre del Greco, and Torre dell' Annunziata. Vesuvius rises on the left, and all around are traces of its destructive agency. Resina stands upon the bed of lava which covers the site of Herculaneum. Torre del Greco and Torre dell' Annunziata have been repeatedly rent and riven by earthquakes, and well-nigh destroyed by the fiery

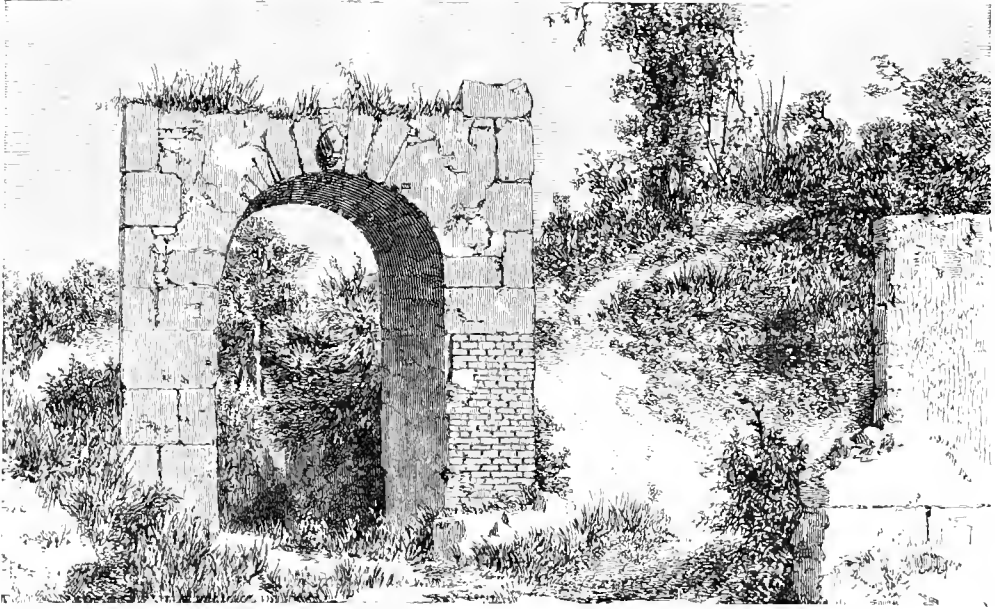






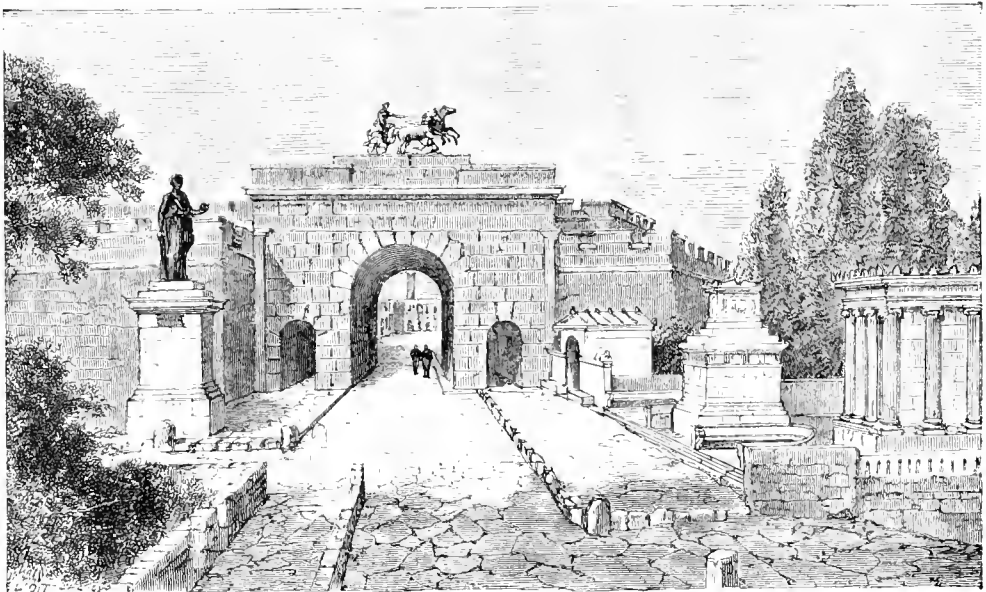
ERUPTION OF MOUNT VESUVIUS, DECEMBER 8TH, 1861.

## POMPEII.



THE GATE OF NOLA, POMPEII.

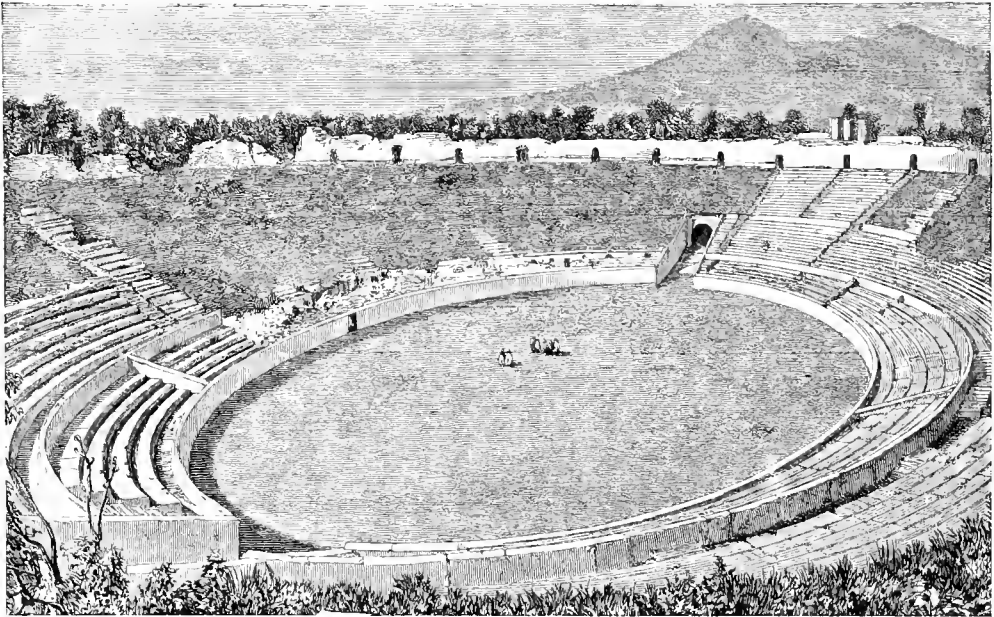
flood pouring down from the crater. The railway runs for considerable distances through deep cuttings in the old lava streams, and the side of the mountain is seamed by lines of black rock, which mark the course of former eruptions. But such is the fertility of the soil, that along the shores of the bay and even far up the mountain side there is a dense population who, heedless of the perils



THE GATE OF HERCULANEUM, AND STREET OF TOMBS, POMPEII.

which environ them, raise large quantities of fruit, vegetables, sugar-cane, and cotton.

Pompeii was in its glory at the commencement of the Christian era. Its history goes back to a much earlier date; its traditions, indeed, reach to the mythical period, its name being derived from the splendid ceremonials (*pompæ*) with which Hercules is said to have celebrated his victories here. Under Titus it was a city of about thirty thousand inhabitants. "The situation of Pompeii," says Dr. Dyer, appears to have possessed all local advantages that the most refined taste could desire. Upon the verge of the sea, at the entrance of a fertile plain, on the banks of a navigable river, it united the conveniences of a commercial town with the security of a military station, and the romantic beauty of a spot celebrated



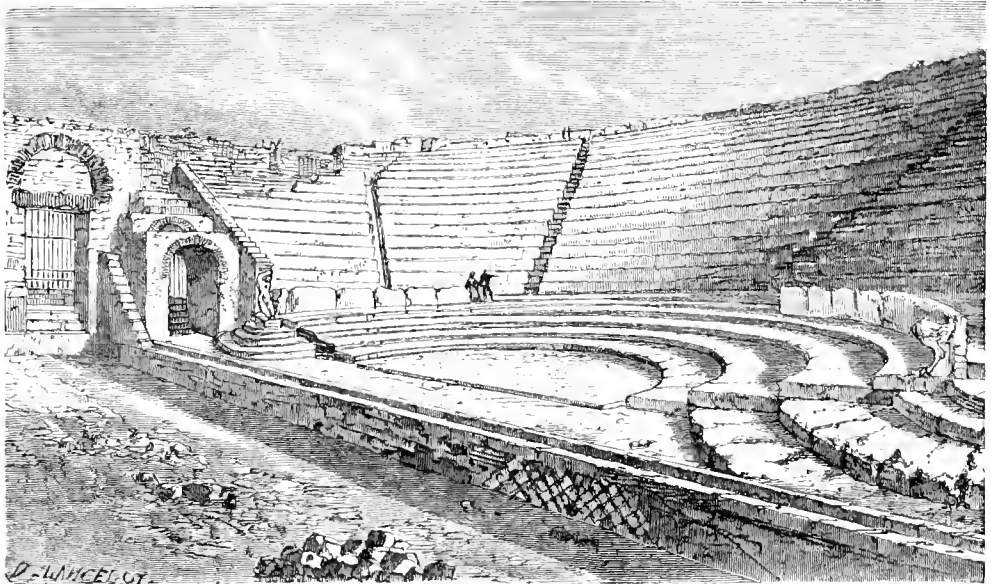
THE AMPHITHEATRE.

in all ages for its pre-eminent loveliness. Its environs, even to the heights of Vesuvius, were covered with villas, and the coast all the way to Naples was so ornamented with gardens and villages that the shores of the gulf appeared as one city; whilst the prodigious concourse of strangers who came here in search of health and recreation added new charms and life to the scene."\*

But indications were not wanting of the peril with which the city was threatened. The whole district is volcanic, and a few years before the final catastrophe an earthquake had shaken Pompeii to its foundations. The Forum,

\* *Pompeii: its History, Buildings, and Antiquities.* By T. H. Dyer, LL.D. A very admirable summary of the history and antiquities of Pompeii is given in the *Quarterly Review*, for April, 1864, to which, and to Dr. Dyer's elaborate work, the reader is referred for fuller details than can be given in this brief sketch.

many of the temples and other edifices, public and private, were overthrown. On August 24, A.D. 79, the inhabitants were busily engaged in repairing the damage thus wrought, when "suddenly, and without any previous warning, a vast column of black smoke burst from the overhanging mountain. Rising to a prodigious height in the cloudless summer sky, it then gradually spread itself out like the head of some mighty Italian pine, hiding the sun, and overshadowing the earth for many a league. The darkness grew into profound night, only broken by the blue and sulphurous flashes which darted from the pitchy cloud. Soon the thick rain of thin, light ashes, almost imperceptible to the touch, fell upon the land. Then quickly succeeded showers of small, hot stones, mingled with heavier masses, and emitting stifling mephitic fumes. After a time the sound as of approaching



THE SMALL THEATRE.

torrents was heard, and soon steaming rivers of dense black mud poured slowly but irresistibly down the mountain sides, and curled through the streets, insidiously creeping into such recesses as even the subtle ashes had failed to penetrate. There was now no place of shelter left. No man could defend himself against this double enemy. It was too late for flight for such as had remained behind. Those who had taken refuge in the innermost parts of the houses, or in the subterranean passages, were closed up for ever. Those who sought to flee through the streets were clogged by the small, loose pumice-stones which lay many feet deep, or were entangled and overwhelmed in the mud streams, or were struck down by the rocks which fell from the heavens. If they escaped these dangers, blinded by the drifting ashes, and groping in the dark, not knowing which way to go, they were overcome by the sulphurous vapours, and, sinking on the highways, were soon buried beneath

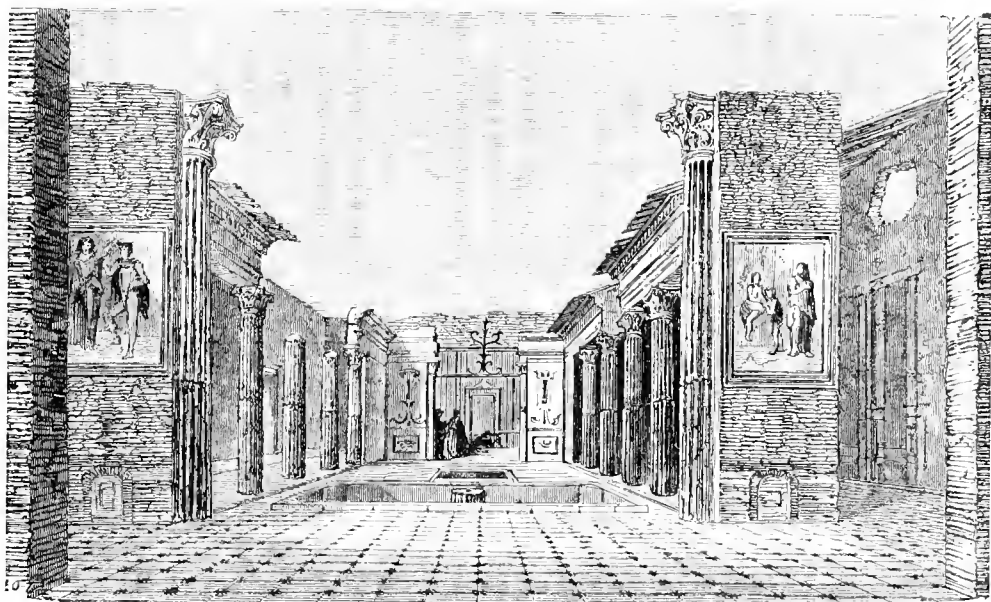


STREET AND HOUSE IN POMPEII.



STREET IN POMPEII.

the volcanic matter. Even many who had gained the open country at the beginning of the eruption were overtaken by the darkness and falling cinders, and perished miserably in the fields or on the seashore, where they had vainly sought the means of flight. In three days the doomed town had disappeared. It lay buried beneath a vast mass of ashes, pumice-stones, and hardened mud."



PERISTYLE OF THE HOUSE OF THE QUESTOR.



Years, generations, centuries went by. The rich volcanic soil became covered with a profusion of vegetation. Vineyards flourished, and houses were built on the site of the buried town, the very existence of which was forgotten, though it still bore the name of *Cività* or the City. Occasionally remains were disinterred by labourers, especially in the year 1592, when a canal was cut to bring the waters of the Sarno to the village of Annunziata. At length in 1748, excavations upon an extended scale were commenced. But still no suspicion seems to have been entertained that the once famous city of Pompeii had been discovered, till, in 1763, an inscription was found which established the fact beyond doubt.

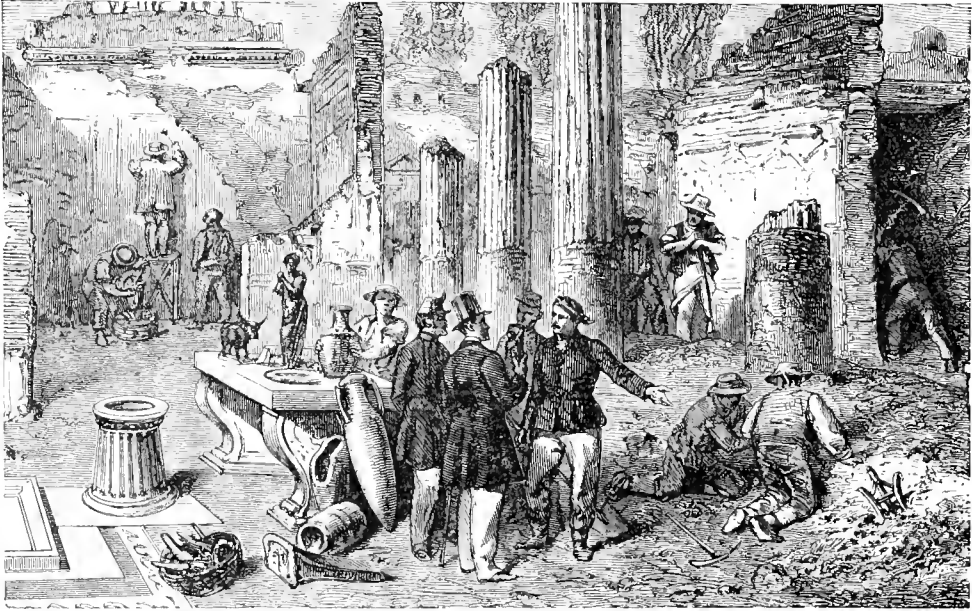
It is often, though erroneously, supposed that Pompeii, like Herculaneum, was overwhelmed by a flood of lava. Had this been the case, the work of excavation would have been immensely more difficult, and the results would have been far less important. The marbles must have been calcined, the bronzes melted, the frescoes effaced, and smaller articles destroyed by the fiery flood. The ruin was effected by showers of dust and scoriæ, and by torrents of liquid mud, which formed a mould, encasing the objects, thus preserving them from injury or decay.

The explorations are now carried on, under the able superintendence of Signor Fiorelli, in the following manner. Gangs of men and women are employed to excavate the huge mounds of scoriæ and hardened mud. The *débris* is carted away to a distance from the town, so as not to impede future operations. So soon as the quick eye of the superintendent detects the indication of any objects of interest being reached, the task proceeds more slowly. Experienced workmen remove with their hands the stones, ashes, and earth, crumbling each portion carefully, so as to discover any articles of value it may contain. These are catalogued and laid aside to be deposited



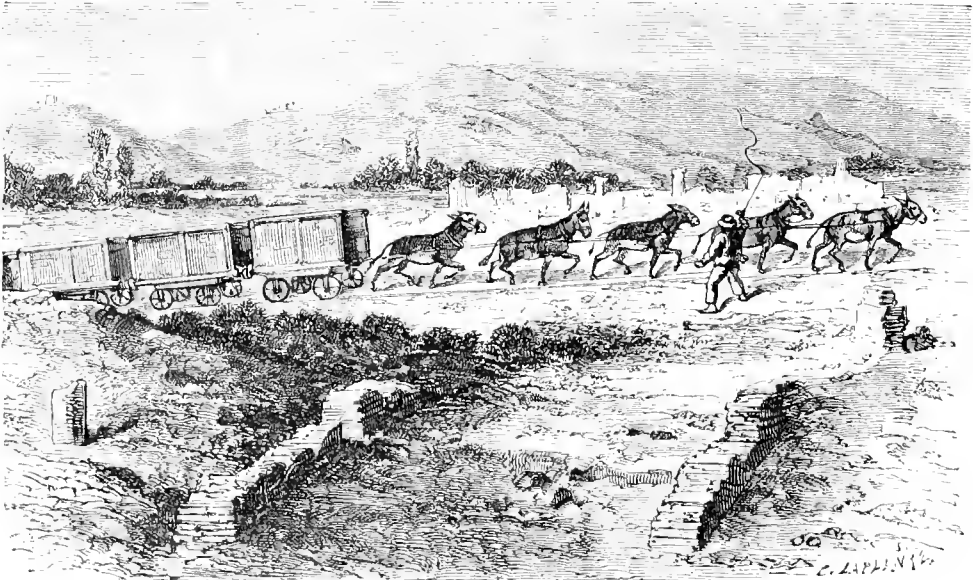
CLEARING A STREET.

## EXPLORATIONS IN POMPEII.



SEARCHING FOR REMAINS.

in the museum. The frescoes and *graffiti* are either detached from the walls or guarded against injury. The walls, where necessary, are propped up, and the wood-work is, in certain cases, restored. We thus gain a perfect picture of what a Roman city was eighteen hundred years ago. About half of it has been already exposed to view, and Signor Fiorelli expresses the hope that, in about twenty years more, he may have succeeded in laying bare the whole.



CARTING AWAY THE RUBBISH.

It gives a very impressive sense of the splendour of Italian cities under the Empire to find a provincial town, of thirty thousand inhabitants, so abundantly furnished with works of art and all the appliances for luxurious enjoyment. The houses were for the most part small, and the streets narrow, but theatres, public baths, triumphal arches, fountains, and statues were very numerous. The walls of the houses were decorated with frescoes, the floors were commonly laid with mosaics, in the atrium was a fountain, and in the rear a garden which, though small, appears to have been laid out with exquisite taste.

The shops and taverns are very interesting, as illustrating distinctly and vividly the domestic life of the people. Here is a baker's shop. Eighteen hundred years ago the baker, having placed his loaves in the oven, had closed the iron door, when

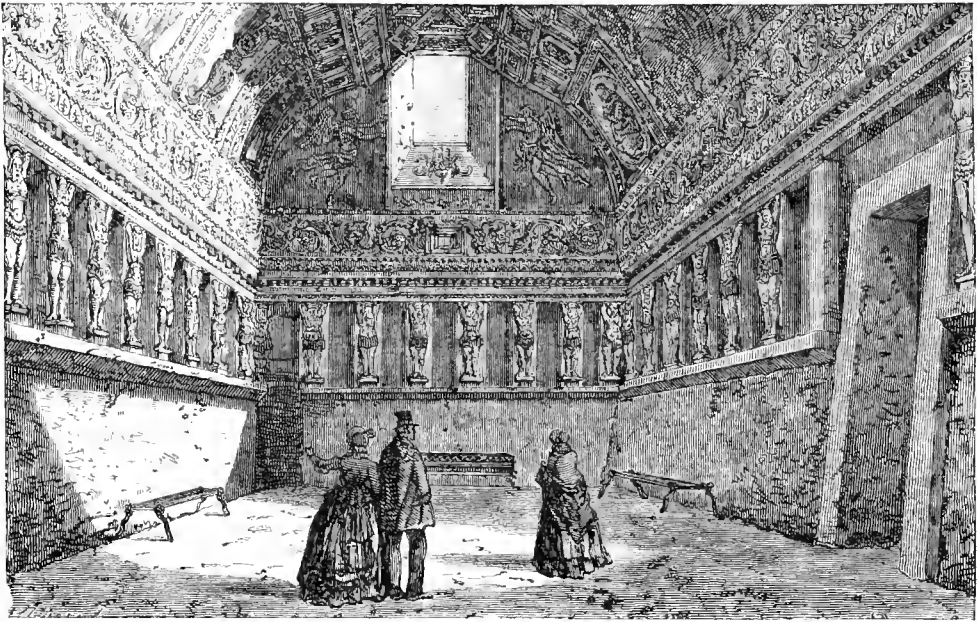


BAKER'S OVEN, BREAD, AND FLOUR-MILLS.

he had to fly for his life. A few years ago the batch was drawn by Signor Fiorelli. The loaves are in shape just like those sold at the present day in the neighbouring villages and in the streets of Naples. In an eating-house were found raisins, olives, onions, fish cooked in oil, and figs split in two and then skewered together: turning into a roadside *osteria* at the entrance of Annunziata, I lunched on bread and fruits prepared in precisely the same fashion. In this eating-house is a dresser of brick-work, in which are large metal and earthenware vessels for soup, with furnaces to keep it warm and ladles to distribute it: in a London cook-shop a precisely similar arrangement may be seen. Amphoræ of wine are marked with the year of the vintage, the characteristic quality, and the name of the wine-merchant from whom they were purchased, just as an English vintner advertises his *Duff Gordon's dry sherry*, or his '47 *fruity port*. Taverns were indicated by chequers on the

door-post, or by a sign painted on the wall. At the sign of the Elephant, Sittius informs his customers that he has "fitted it up afresh" (*restituit*), and that he has "a triclinium, three beds, and every convenience." It has been said that "our first thought in visiting a gallery of antiquities is, How ancient!—our second, How modern!" Nowhere is this more true than in Pompeii.

Amongst the most interesting remains discovered in the buried city are the *graffiti* or inscriptions. At the time of the eruption, the Pompeians were busily engaged in their municipal elections, and the partisans of the various candidates scratched or painted their electioneering appeals upon the walls in a curiously modern fashion. We read, *Philippus beseeches you to create M. Holconius Priscus Duumvir of justice*. Another inscription requests votes for *Capella*, as *one of the duumvirs*. A third declares Cneius Helvius to be *worthy* of the honour. Pansa



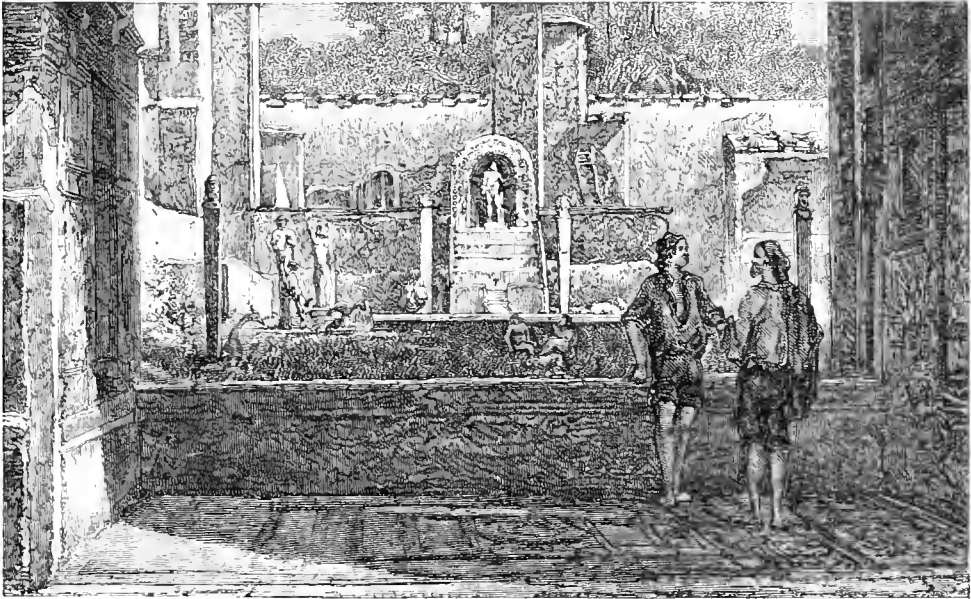
TEPIDARIUM OF PUBLIC BATH.

seems to have been the popular candidate, and his enthusiastic supporters go into superlatives in his praise, affirming him to be *most worthy*. Popidius had likewise many friends, who commend him to the voters on the ground that he is *a modest and illustrious youth*. Alas, for municipal ambition! the eruption came, and voters and candidates either fled or perished before the election was made.

In addition to these electioneering inscriptions there are many of a more personal and domestic character. A schoolboy has scratched his Greek alphabet on the walls of a house. Another has inscribed a reminiscence of the first line of the *Æneid*, which had been published not very long before. The spelling is curious as illustrating the local pronunciation of Latin, *Alma vilumque cano Tlo*. . . . On the walls of shops and kitchens, we may read how many pounds of

lard, bunches of garlic, or flasks of wine had been bought; how many tunics had been sent to the wash; how much wool had been given out to be spun by the slaves of the household; with many another domestic and personal detail. We discover without surprise that a large proportion of the *graffiti* are of an indecent character. Indeed a general tone of impurity pervades the whole of the Pompeian remains. Some of the paintings are perfectly horrible in their licentiousness, justifying the strong language of an eloquent American divine:

"Scholars and artists have mourned for ages over the almost universal destruction of the works of ancient genius. I suppose that many a second-rate city, at the time of Christ, possessed a collection of works of surpassing beauty, which could not be equalled by all the specimens now existing that have yet been discovered. The Alexandrian library is believed to have contained a greater treasure of intellectual riches than has ever since been hoarded in a single city.



GARDEN AND FOUNTAINS OF THE HOUSE OF LUCRETII.

These, we know, have all vanished from the earth. The Apollo Belvedere and the Venus de' Medici stand in almost solitary grandeur, to remind us of the perfection to which the plastic art of the ancients had attained. The Alexandrian library furnished fuel for years for the baths of illiterate Moslems. I used myself frequently to wonder why it had pleased God to blot out of existence these magnificent productions of ancient genius. It seemed to me strange that the pall of oblivion should thus be thrown over all to which man, in the flower of his age, had given birth. But the solution of this mystery is found, I think, in the remains of Herculaneum and Pompeii. We there discover that every work of man was so penetrated by corruption, every production of genius was so defiled with uncleanness, that God, in introducing a better dispensation, determined

to cleanse the world from the pollution of preceding ages. As when all flesh had corrupted His way, He purified the world by the waters of a flood, so, when genius had covered the earth with images of sin, He overwhelmed the works of ancient civilisation with a deluge of barbarism, and consigned the most splendid monuments of literature and art to almost universal oblivion. It was too bad to exist; and He swept it all away with the besom of destruction."

Of the inhabitants of Pompeii thousands perished. Many hand in hand groped their way through the streets, and so escaped to the open country. At the chief gate there stood a sentinel, who sternly kept his post through the thunders of that dreadful day. He died in harness. Planted in his sentry-box, he covered his mouth with his tunic, and held on against the choking and sulphurous shower. But the ashes fell and fell, and finally filled the box, and buried the soldier alive, still grasping his weapon in one hand and veiling his mouth with the other. There, after ages of rest, he was found—a grisly skeleton clutching a rusty sword.

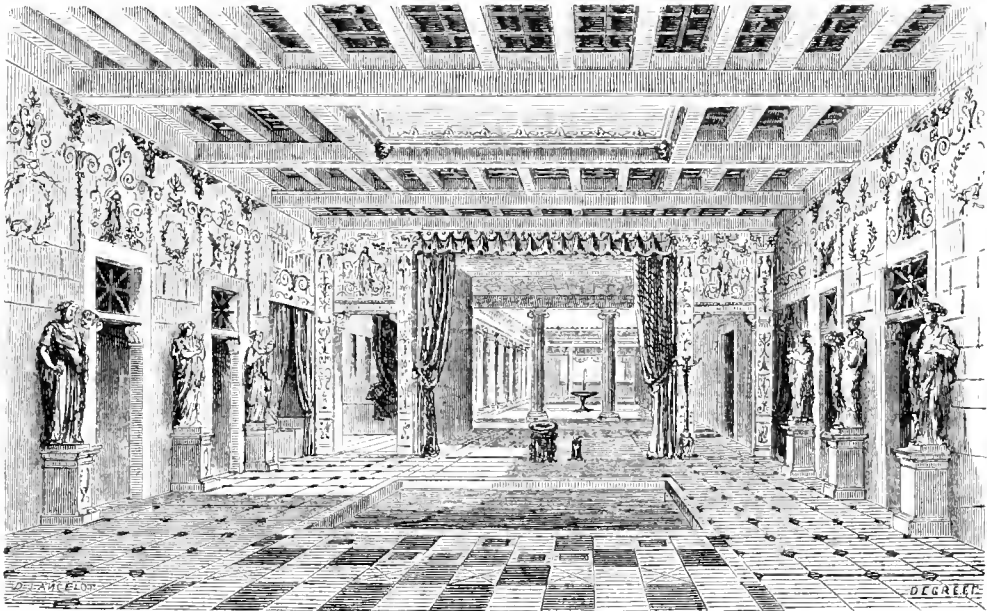
Sad discoveries were made in the street leading to that gate. There were two skeletons locked in close embrace, the teeth perfect, indicating youth in its prime: skeletons of a young man and maid. They had fallen together in their flight, and death had wedded them. There was a mother with her three children hand in hand, who tried vainly to outrun death. Perhaps the mother singly might have done it, but she could not leave her children. Food for sad thought is furnished in remembering that six hundred skeletons have been already exhumed!—many in such positions and circumstances as to suggest very touching episodes accompanying the final catastrophe. Of the family of Diomed, seventeen persons were stifled in a wine-cellar well stocked with amphoræ of wine, some of which bore the date of the vintage. The fugitives, in their agony of fear, stood all huddled in a corner. One swooning girl fell forwards on to the bed of ashes that had drifted in. She left the impress of her bosom in the drift like a seal in softened wax.

An interesting little circumstance is connected with one of these houses. The skeleton of a dove was found in a niche overlooking the garden. Like the sentinel, she had kept to her post, sat on her nest through all the storm, and from beneath her was taken the egg she would not leave.

Jewels were found in the atrium of Proculus's house, but no money was discovered. Those bearing it had escaped. Perhaps not far; for a woman was unearthed in the street hard by, who had fallen clutching a bag of gold. It was in connection with this woman that one of the most interesting of M. Fiorelli's discoveries came about. He had often noticed in crumbling off the hardened ashes from the outworks of a skeleton, that the mass still bore a cast of the body and limbs of the victim while in the flesh. It will be remembered, that at the eruption ashes fell like a snowdrift upon everything, succeeded by sulphurous showers and torrents of mud. Those persons, therefore, who succumbed in the street or other open places were completely enveloped. The drift shrouded them with a clinging garment of scoriæ and sulphurous rain intermingled, which took the exact mould and impress of their forms in the attitude and terrors of the last supreme moment.



Evaporation hardened and petrified this mass and kept it in shape. The fleshly body within the mould crumbled away with lapse of time, but the tell-tale cavity remained intact. And it is perfect to this day. Now M. Fiorelli's object was to get access to one of these hollows without injuring the crust. This he did in the case of the woman just mentioned. Having cut away the scoriæ as near as could safely be done, a small aperture was made, into which liquid plaster-of-Paris was poured till the whole cavity was filled up. When it had thoroughly hardened, he and his assistants carefully removed the last crust of ashes, and lo! the perfect cast and model of a woman came out. After eighteen centuries the dead form lay manifest—the exact counterpart of the poor victim, moulded by herself, as she fell struggling with the grim destroyer. She gripped a bag of money and other valuables in her hand. Hurrying along the street, she had tripped and

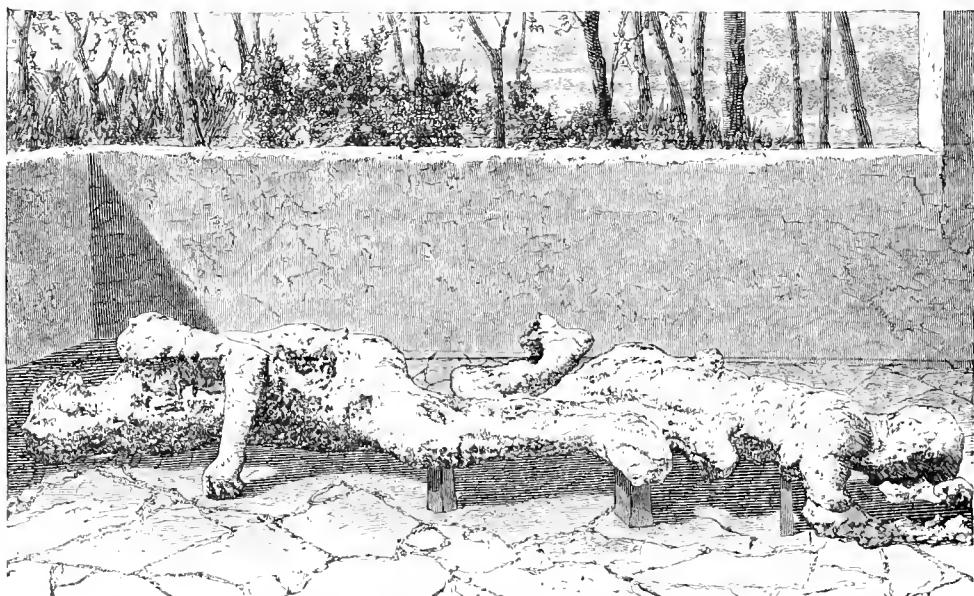


ATRIUM OF HOUSE OF PANZA, RESTORED.

fallen on her left side. Her arm is raised and twisted. The hand, beautifully formed, is clutched as if in despair: you would say the nails were entering the skin. As for the body, it is drawn together; but the legs, which are perfectly moulded, seem to be thrust out as if battling with the encroaching death. Her head-dress is clearly distinguishable. The very tissue of her garments is seen, and indeed in parts the linen threads have stuck to the mould. She had two silver rings on her finger, and to judge from appearances must have been a lady of some rank.

Succeeding in this, M. Fiorelli made casts of others of the slain. There was one of a mother and daughter who had apparently fallen together in the street. The bodies lay close, the legs crossing. The plaster has united them in one cast. The signs of suffering are not so manifest here as in the other case. They were apparently poor people. The mother (if it were the mother) has on her finger an

iron ring. Her left leg is drawn up as if with a spasm of pain. As for the young girl, her form perfectly modelled without any rigidity, in the flush and bloom of hearty youth—fifteen, perhaps little more than a child—impresses the beholder with mournful interest. She seems, poor thing, not to have struggled much for life. One of her hands is half open, as if holding something, perhaps the veil that she had torn off. The texture of her dress is exactly reproduced, the stitches even, and the sleeves that reach to her wrist. Several rents and holes here and there show the flesh beneath. The needlework on her sandals is there, and in fact you have in plaster the very counterpart of the girl just as she lay in the last swoon seventy years after Christ. You have taken Death in the very act. She had covered her face with her tunic to keep out the choking ashes, and she fell in running, face to the ground. No strength was left to get up again. But in the



CASTS OF DEAD BODIES OF TWO WOMEN.

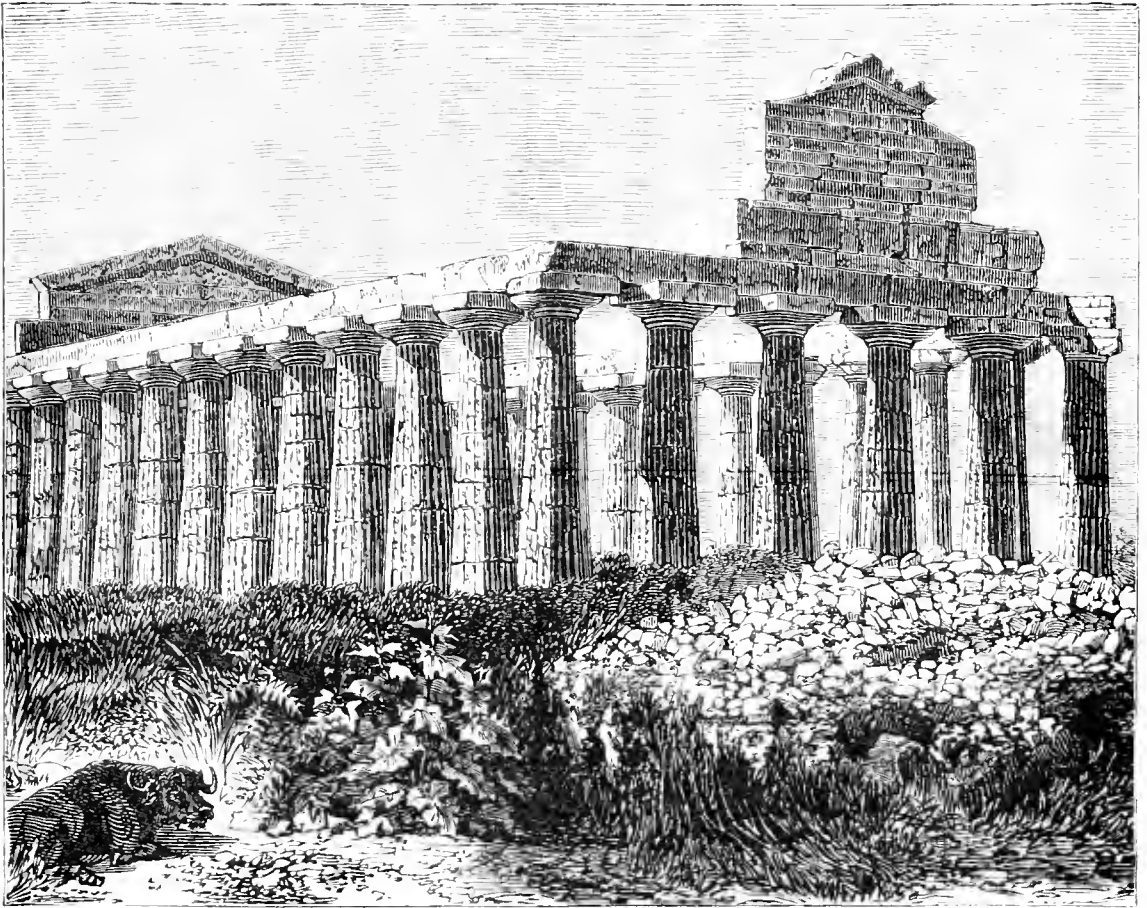
effort to save her young life she put out her arm, and her head drooped upon it, and then she died. The engraving is from a photograph of these two women.

It has been calculated that two thousand persons perished in Pompeii in the terrible eruption which overwhelmed the city. We know that the great Apostle of the Gentiles had landed only a few miles away about twelve years before. Whether from his lips or by other means, any among them had heard the words of eternal life we cannot tell. Into the dark and mysterious future which awaited them beyond the grave we cannot look. But we may apply to ourselves the warning which our Lord deduced from a yet more terrible catastrophe. He teaches us that responsibility is proportioned to privilege, that to whomsoever much has been given, from them much shall be required. Reminding those who saw His mighty works and heard His gracious words of the terrible

## RUINS OF PÆSTUM.

judgment of fire which had overwhelmed the cities of the plain, He warned them that a doom even more fearful awaited those who continued impenitent under the ministry of the gospel : more tolerable will it be for Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment, than for those who reject or neglect the great salvation which He offered.

About forty miles beyond Pompeii are the ruins of Pæstum, of which a writer so little given to enthusiasm as Forsyth says : " Taking into view their immemorial antiquity, their astonishing preservation, their grandeur, their bold



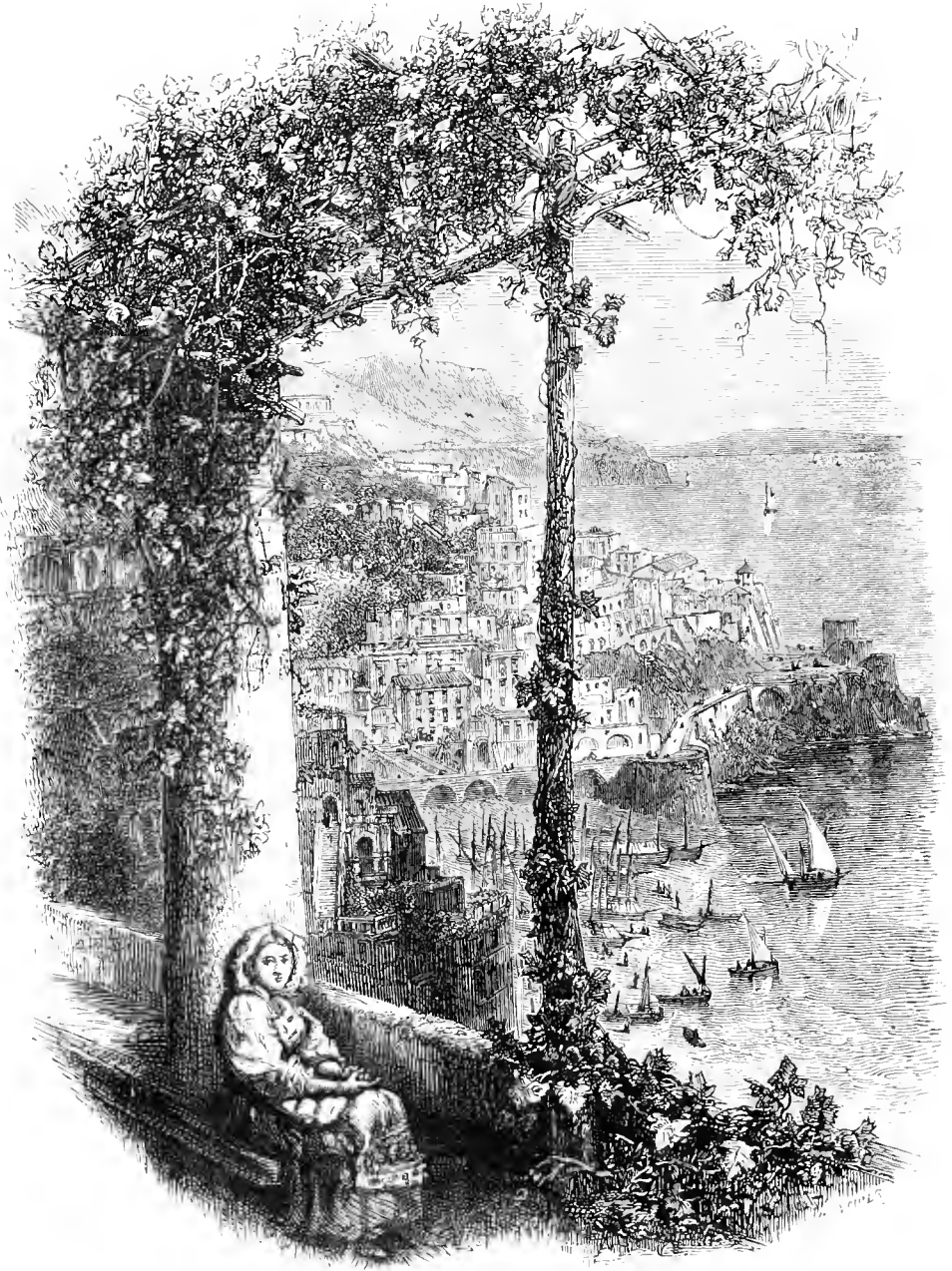
TEMPLE OF VESIA AT PÆSTUM.

columnar elevation, at once massive and open, their severe simplicity of design, that simplicity in which art generally begins and to which after a thousand revolutions of ornament it again returns ; taking, I say, all into one view, I do not hesitate to call these the most impressive monuments that I ever beheld on earth."

The route thither is one of rare interest and beauty. The railroad as far as Vietri winds along a valley from which the mountains rise in grand and massive forms. Picturesque towns and villages—La Cava, Nocera, and others—are

## AMALFI.

passed. A rapid stream, turning innumerable water-wheels, gives vivacity to the scene. A rich semi-tropical vegetation extends far up the mountain sides.



AMALFI, FROM THE TERRACE OF THE SUPPRESSED CONVENT.

The inhabitants, as yet little affected by the tide of tourists which the railway brings, retain their old usages and old costumes almost unchanged. Here, as





HARVEST GROUP IN SOUTHERN ITALY.



throughout the Maremma, labourers from the Abruzzi may be seen celebrating the ingathering of the the harvest with songs and dances which have come down from a remote antiquity, and bear unmistakable traces of the pagan festivities in honour of Bacchus and Ceres.

At Vietri the Gulf of Salerno is reached, and the broad blue Mediterranean opens before us. From this point a charming road winds along the coast to the right leading to Amalfi. It resembles in its general features the finest parts of the Riviera, between Nice and Genoa; but even the famous Corniche Road falls far short of it in grandeur. Even in this district of Elysian beauty I know of nothing so beautiful. He who has seen the sun rise or set from the terrace of the old Capuchin convent on the heights above Amalfi will never forget the glory of the scene. Mountains on one side, the Mediterranean on the other, between them a zone of rocky headlands and silver sands, groves of orange and citron, with

“A few white villages  
Scattered above, below, some in the clouds,  
Some on the margin of the dark blue sea,  
And glittering in their lemon-groves, announce  
The region of Amalfi.”

Pæstum stands, or rather stood, across the bay, and may be reached either by boat or by returning to Vietri, and proceeding thence through Salerno. The approach by sea is most impressive. The temples stand in solitary, solemn grandeur. The city above which they rose has disappeared. A few poor houses inhabited by peasants are all the dwellings that occupy the site of Poseidonia, the once powerful and wealthy city of Neptune. Massive walls built of huge blocks of travertine, with their towers and gateways almost entire, enclose a vast empty space, which at the dawn of modern history was thronged with busy life. The marshy soil now reeks with malaria. The port is choked up with mud and sand. Herds of buffaloes wander to and fro across the waste and add to the desolation of the scene. Three stately temples—the most perfect relics of Greek architecture, except those of Athens—are all that remain to attest the magnificence which existed here when Rome was but an unwallled village.

The origin of Poseidonia is lost in a remote antiquity. In the wars with Pyrrhus it fell under the power of the Romans. But so fondly did its inhabitants cherish the memory of their departed greatness that an annual fast was kept to bewail their fallen state. Sacked by the Saracens in the ninth century, and its ruins plundered by the Normans, two centuries later, to build the cathedral of Salerno, it has gradually crumbled into dust and disappeared.

Returning from Naples to Rome, the traveller passes through a district of the deepest interest. Almost every town and village has been the scene of some memorable event, or is associated with some illustrious name. The railway runs through or near Capua, Monte Cassino, with its famous monastery, Alatri, Aquino, Arpino, Velletri, and other towns, familiar as “household words” to classical students. The post-road crosses the Pontine Marshes, following the

line of the old Appian Way, and passes through Foro Appio, which has retained its name almost unchanged from apostolic times.

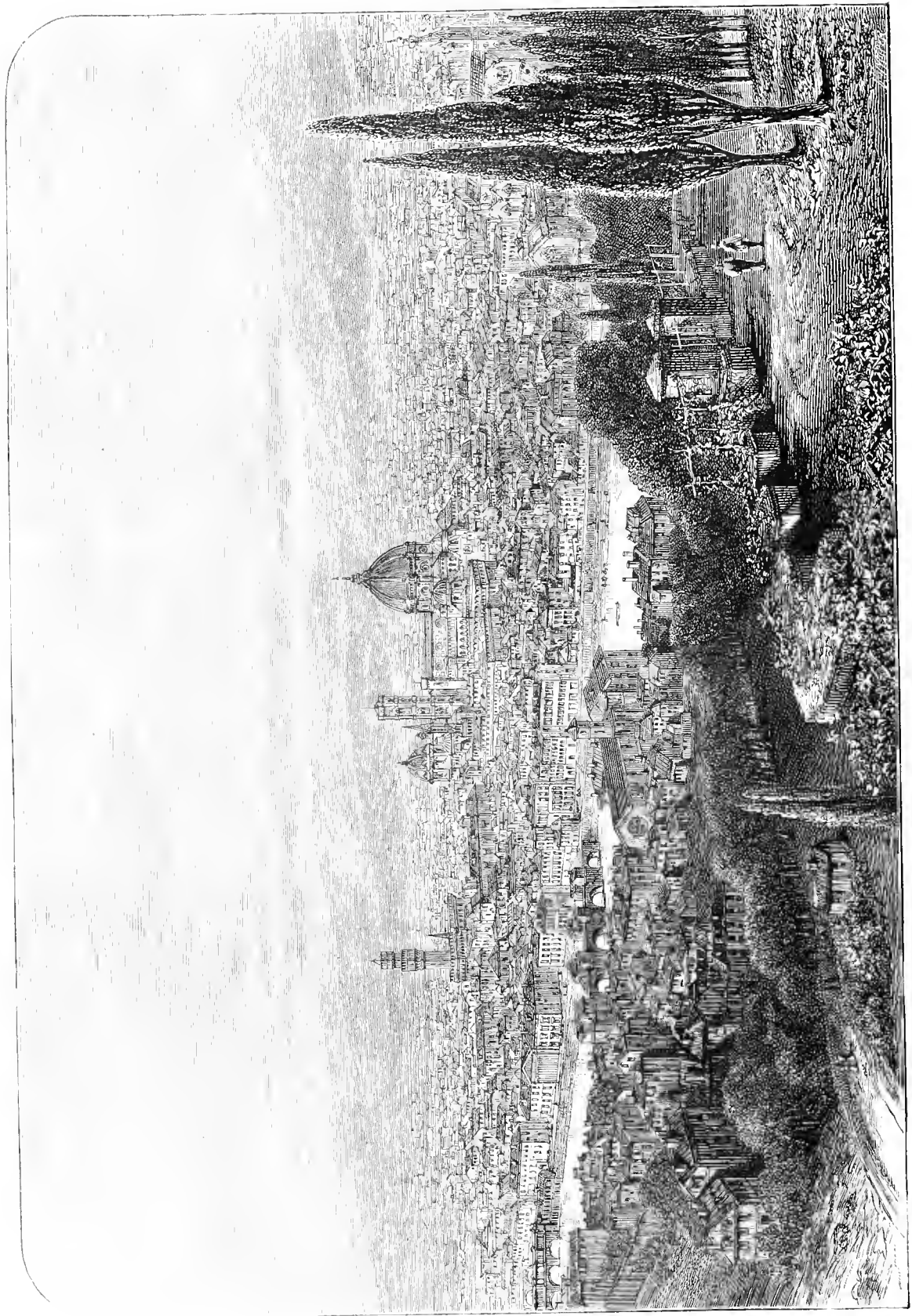
The coast-line is studded with the remains of Roman villas. Those about Gaeta are especially interesting. Virgil, Horace, and Cicero have described the scenery and celebrated the pleasures of residence here. Local antiquaries, with



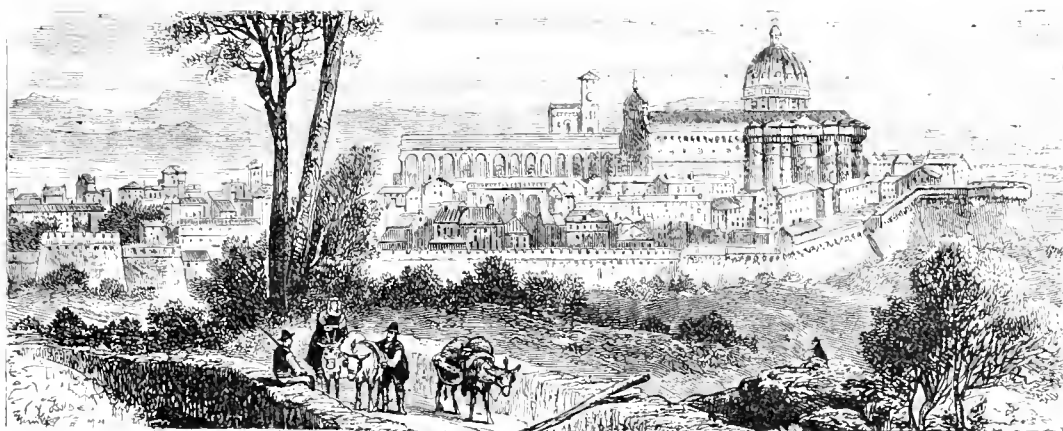
FOUNTAIN AT MOLA DI GAETA, WITH THE BAY AND CASTLE.

great plausibility, have identified it with one of the most familiar incidents in the *Odyssey*—that in which Ulysses meets the daughter of the king of the *Læstrygonians*; and Virgil makes it the scene of the death and burial of the nurse of *Æneas*. In modern times the Castle of Gaeta has been the strongest fortress of the Bourbon kings of Naples; and here, in 1850, Pius IX. found refuge on his flight from Rome.

TUSCANY AND PIEDMONT.



FLORENCE, FROM THE TERRACE OF SAN MINIATO.



## TUSCANY AND PIEDMONT.



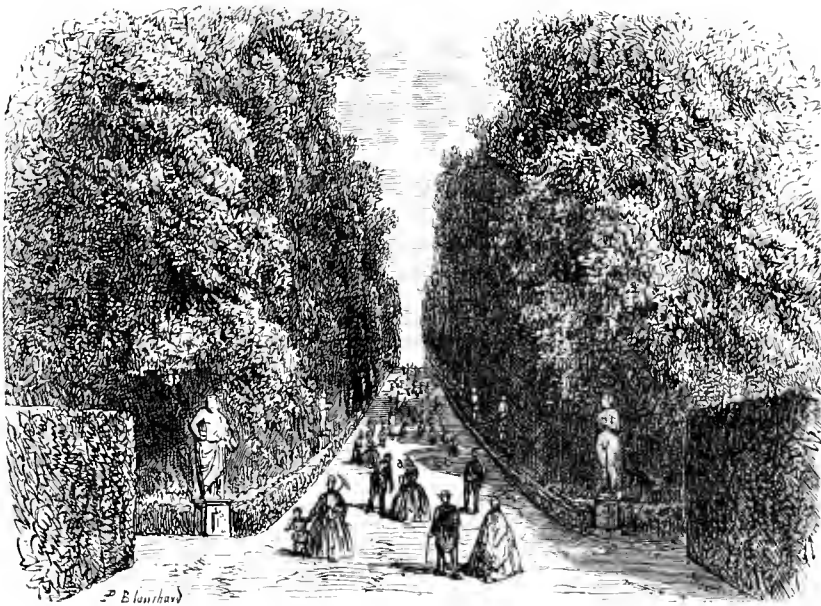
FEW cities in the world combine more numerous and more varied sources of interest than Florence. Seated on the banks of the Arno, and surrounded by an amphitheatre of mountains, it possesses natural beauties of no common order :

“Girt by her theatre of hills, she reaps  
Her corn and wine and oil, and Plenty leaps  
To laughing life, with her redundant horn.  
Along the banks, where smiling Arno sleeps,  
Was modern Luxury of Commerce born.  
And buried Learning rose redeemed to a new morn.”

Its public edifices—churches, palaces, campaniles, bridges—were designed or adorned by the greatest artists of the *renaissance*, and are worthy of the genius of their builders. The treasures of art in the Pitti and Uffizi galleries may vie with those of Rome, and in some respects surpass them. The historical associations of Florence are of the deepest interest, abounding in stirring incidents and fruitful in political lessons. Amongst her citizens are enrolled some of the greatest names of Europe—Savonarola, Dante, Boccaccio, Giotto, Fra Angelico, Michael Angelo, Galileo, the Medici, Macchiavelli, with a host of others eminent in art, science, literature, philosophy, and religion. And if Rome be the ecclesiastical and political, Florence may justly claim to be the intellectual capital of Italy.

Amongst the many magnificent views of the city, the Val d'Arno, and the surrounding Apennines, afforded by the hills which rise above Florence, it is

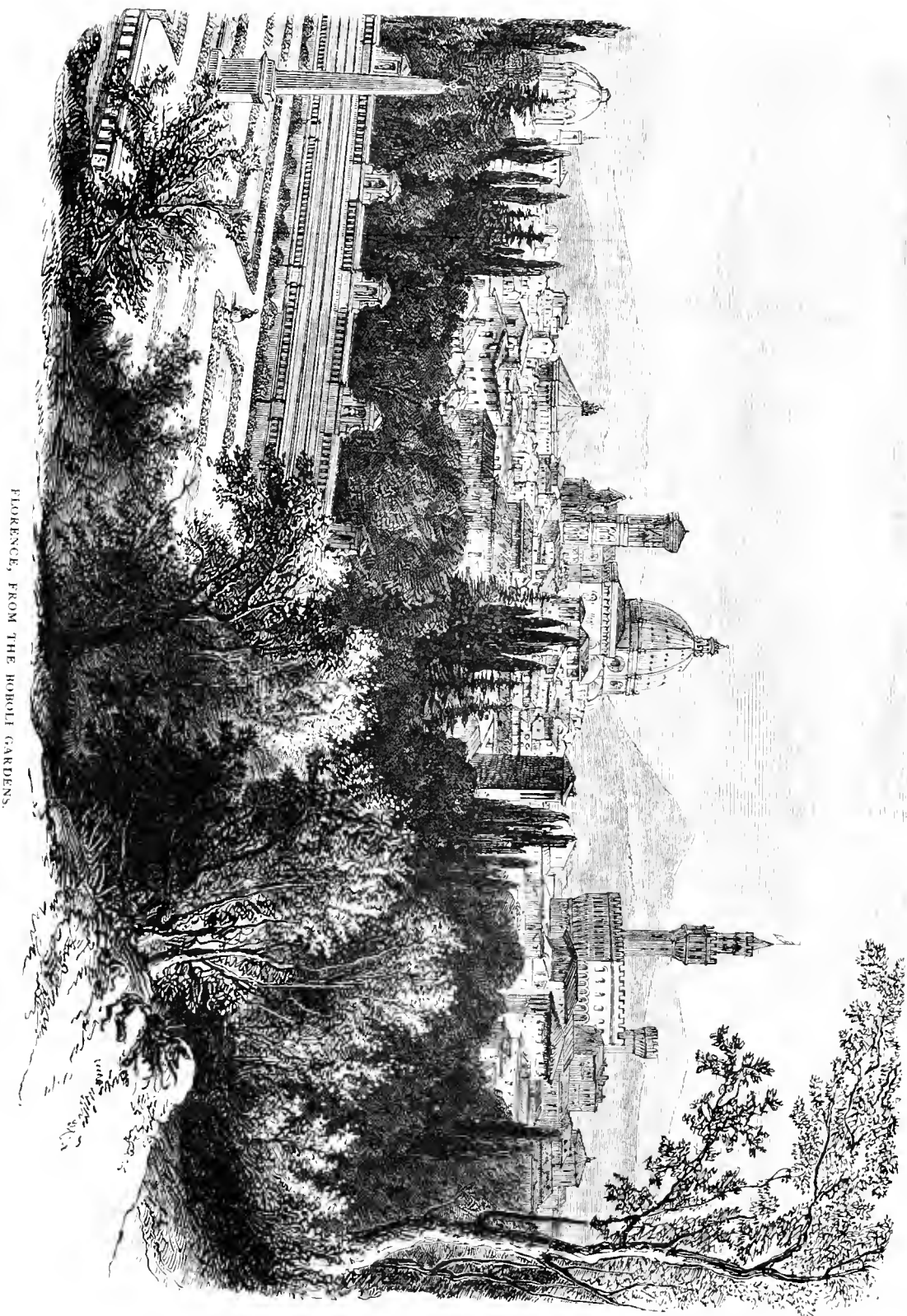
difficult to say which is the finest. Two or three linger in the memory as of unsurpassed beauty. Stand on the terrace of San Miniato before sunrise on a winter's morning. Through the clear, keen frosty air the snow-crowned mountains stretch away to the horizon on every side. Along the valley "the river glideth at his own sweet will." The city, with its domes, and towers, and belfries seems sleeping in stately beauty. Then a flush of light and colour gleams upon the cold white summits of the mountains as the sun rises above the horizon. The grey tones of the landscape disappear in the bright morning light, except where the olive groves retain them; and even here innumerable white-walled villas relieve the sombre hue. The marbles of Giotto's wonderful campanile flash and sparkle in the morning light. The faint veil of mist which lay over the Arno disappears and the river flows on rejoicingly. Songs and laughter resound from the peasantry flocking into the city with their country produce. Enchanted with the view, we pronounce with emphasis the name by which every Florentine calls his beloved city, *Firenze la bella*.



AVENUE IN BOBOLI GARDENS.

Different, but very beautiful, is the view from the Boboli Gardens. They lie behind the Palazzo Pitti, formerly the palace of the Grand Duke of Tuscany, and the residence of the king during the few years that Florence was the capital of Italy. Long avenues of trees, walks between thick, high walls of box and other evergreens, terraces, grottoes, waterfalls, lakes, statues, and parterres gay with flowers cover the hill side. They have something of the formal and artificial style of gardening which prevailed at the time when they were designed (1550); but the rich, luxuriant vegetation and the undulations of the ground prevent the appearance of stiffness, and secure a charming variety. To lie on



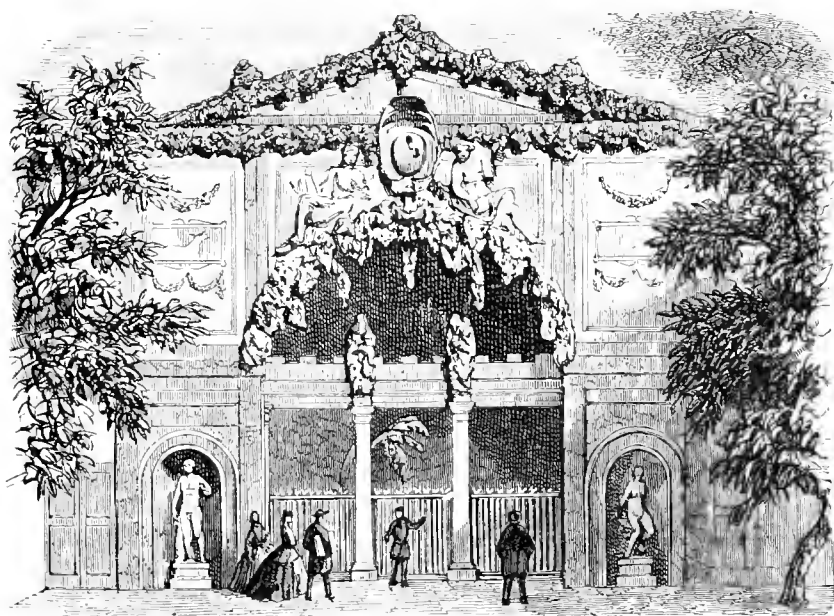


FLORENCE, FROM THE BOBOLI GARDENS.



a sultry afternoon under the cool green shade of some mighty forest tree, whilst the air is filled with the sound of falling waters, and the song of birds, and the fragrance of the flowers from which Florence takes its name, affords a most agreeable experience of the *dolce far niente* in which the Italian delights. The city is seen through a line of solemn cypresses which stand out against the dazzling walls and towers beyond. The Apennines, dotted over with monasteries and churches, towns and villas, form a noble background to the whole.

But perhaps the view from the Villa Nicolini, or that from Fiesole, would enlist the greatest number of admirers. And certainly nothing can be finer than the city and the Val d'Arno as seen from either of these points, especially in the evening when the long shadows stretch across the landscape and all nature is



GROTTO IN BOBOLI GARDENS.

sinking into repose. Even Hallam, usually so cold and precise, glows into eloquent enthusiasm as he describes the view from the gardens of a villa built by the elder Cosmo (now known as the Villa Spence, after its English occupant). He is speaking of Lorenzo the Magnificent, whose favourite residence it was :

“In a villa overhanging the towers of Florence, on the steep slope of that lofty hill crowned by the mother city, the ancient Fiesole, in gardens which Tully might have envied, with Ficino, Landino, and Politian at his side, he delighted his hours of leisure with the beautiful visions of Platonic philosophy, for which the summer stillness of an Italian sky appears the most congenial accompaniment.

“Never could the sympathies of the soul with outward nature be more finely touched; never could more striking suggestions be presented to the philosopher and the statesman. Florence lay beneath them, not with all the

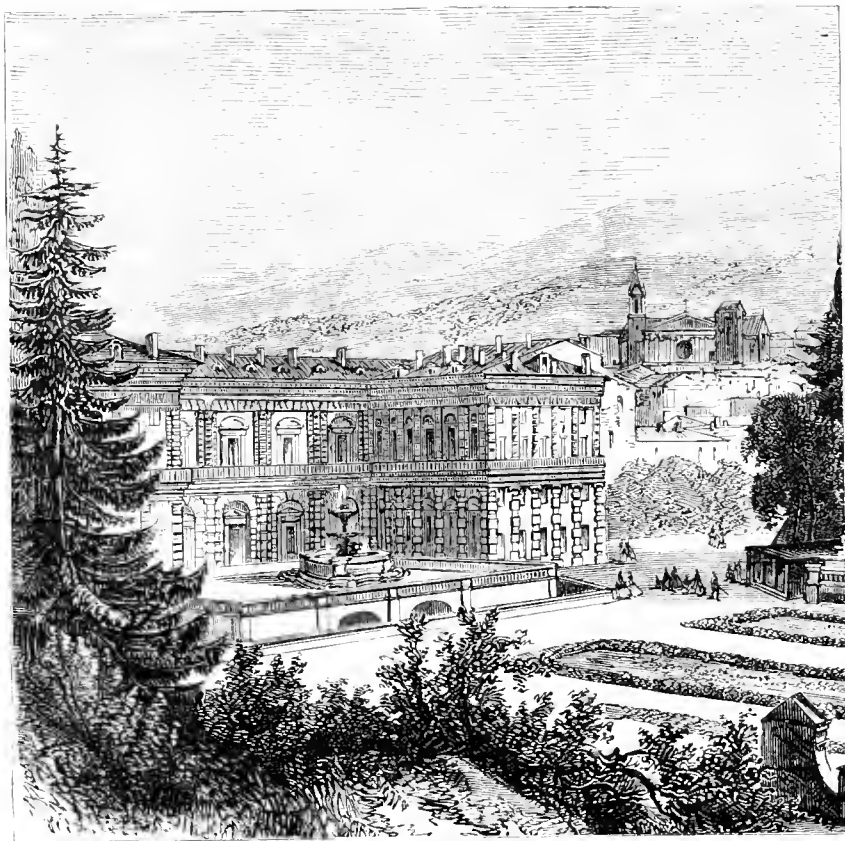
magnificence that the later Medici have given her, but, thanks to the piety of former times, presenting almost as varied an outline to the sky. One man, the wonder of Cosmo's age, Brunelleschi, had crowned the beautiful city with the vast dome of its cathedral, a structure unthought of in Italy before, and rarely since surpassed. It seemed, amidst clustering towers of inferior churches, an emblem of the Catholic hierarchy under its supreme head. Round this were



FLORENCE, FROM THE PORTA SAN NICOLÒ.

numbered, at unequal heights, the Baptistery, with its gates worthy of Paradise ; the tall and richly decorated belfry of Giotto ; the church of the Carmine, with the frescoes of Masaccio, those of Santa Maria Novella, beautiful as a bride, of Santa Croce, second only in magnificence to the cathedral, and of St. Mark ; the San Spirito, another great monument of the genius of Brunelleschi ; the numerous convents that rose within the walls of Florence, or were scattered immediately about them. From these the eye might turn to the trophies of a republican government that was rapidly giving way before the citizen prince

who now surveyed them ; the Palazzo Vecchio, in which the signiory of Florence held their councils, raised by the Guelph aristocracy, the exclusive but not tyrannous faction that long swayed the city ; or the new and unfinished palace which Brunelleschi had designed for one of the Pitti family, before they fell, as others had already done in the fruitless struggle against the house of Medici, itself destined to become the abode of the victorious race, and to perpetuate, by retaining its name, the revolutions that had raised them to power.



PITTI PALACE, GARDEN FRONT.

"The prospect from an elevation of a great city in its silence is one of the most impressive as well as beautiful we ever behold. But far more must it have brought home seriousness to the mind of one who, by the force of events, and the generous ambition of his family, and his own, was involved in the dangerous necessity of governing without the right, and, as far as might be, without the semblance of power ; one who knew the vindictive and unscrupulous hostility which, at home and abroad, he had to encounter. If thoughts like these could bring a cloud over the brow of Lorenzo, unfit for the object he sought in that retreat, he might restore its serenity by other scenes which his garden commanded. Mountains bright with various hues, and clothed with wood, bounded the horizon, and, on most sides, at no great distance ; but

embosomed in these were other villas and domains of his own: while the level country bore witness to his agricultural improvements, the classic diversion of a statesman's cares. The same curious spirit which led him to fill his garden at Careggi with exotic flowers of the East—the first instance of a botanical collection in Europe—had introduced a new animal from the same regions. Herds of buffaloes, since naturalised in Italy, whose dingy hide, bent neck, curved horns, and lowering aspect contrasted with the greyish hue and full mild eye of the Tuscan oxen, pastured in the valley down which the yellow Arno steals silently through its long reaches to the sea."\*

Local tradition points to this villa just below Fiesole as that to which



SAVONAROLA, AFTER THE PORTRAIT IN SAN MARCO.

Lorenzo retired in his last illness, and was visited at his own request by Savonarola.† The accounts of what passed in the death-chamber are somewhat contradictory and vague. This much, however, is certain, that Savonarola insisted upon the necessity of faith and repentance, adding that they must bring forth fruits in those who truly feel them, and that justice is the first fruit of all true faith. He therefore insisted upon the dying man making such restitution as he could to those whom he had wronged during his life. One account says that Lorenzo gave all the evidence of sincerity which was required, and that Savonarola prayed with him, and gave him his blessing. The other narrative affirms that he turned his

face to the wall in sullen silence, and after waiting for a while, Savonarola left the room to return no more.

The convent of San Marco, in which Savonarola lived during his protracted conflict with Rome stands almost unchanged from his day. The walls are covered with exquisite frescoes by Fra Angelico, an artist of so devout a spirit that he is said always to have painted on his knees. In the cell occupied by Savonarola are shown his Bible, the margin filled with annotations in his own hand, and a volume of his sermons. The writing is remarkably small and delicate, contrasting strangely with the vehement and passionate style of his eloquence. The following extracts from his sermons will serve to illustrate the severity of his invectives against the corruptions of the papal church, and his clear perception of the main truths of the gospel:

\* Hallam's *History of Literature*.

† In this case local tradition appears to be at fault. It was in his neighbouring villa at Careggi, just outside the Porta San Gallo, that the interview took place.



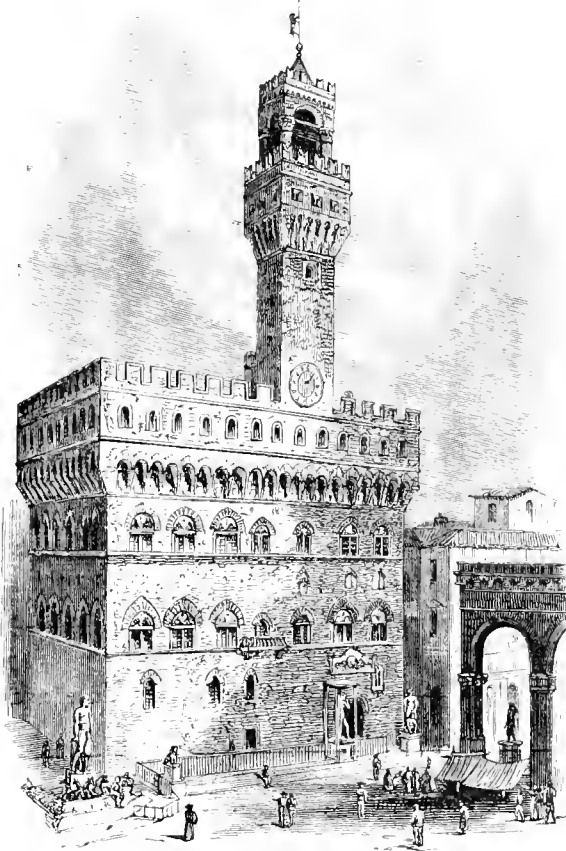
"The primitive church was constructed of living stones, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner-stone. It was then a very heaven upon earth. Now, alas, how changed the scene! The devil, through the instrumentality of wicked prelates, has destroyed this temple of God. The church is shaken to its foundations. No more are the prophets remembered; the apostles are no longer revered; the columns of the church strew the ground because the foundations are destroyed—in other words, because the evangelists are rejected. The teachers who should preach the gospel to the people are no longer to be found. The church, once so justly honoured, has been remoulded by wicked prelates and rulers into a church according to their own fashion. This is the modern church. It is not built with living stones. Within it are not found Christians rooted in that living faith which works by love. In outward ceremonies it is not deficient. Its sacred rites are celebrated with splendid vestments, rich hangings, golden candelabra, and chalices encrusted with gems. You may see its prelates at the altar arrayed in jewelled vestments stiff with gold, chanting beautiful masses, accompanied with such voices, such music, that you are astonished. You cannot doubt that they are men of the utmost holiness and gravity. You cannot suppose that such men can be in error; and are ready to believe that whatever they say or do must be right as the gospel itself. But on such husks as these its members are fed. Yet they say that the church of Christ was never so flourishing as now. The primitive bishops are declared to have hardly deserved the name in comparison with the men who now bear it. It is true. They were poor and humble men, who could not boast of great revenues and rich abbeys, like their successors. They had neither mitres nor chalices of gold. If they had them, they were ready to sacrifice them for the necessities of the poor; whereas the bishops now-a-days extort from the poor the meagre pittance which their necessities require, in order to purchase these splendours. In the primitive church the chalices were of wood, the bishops of gold. Now the church has prelates of wood and chalices of gold. St. Thomas Aquinas was one day addressed by a great prelate like those I have been describing, who held in his hands two golden basins full of ducats. 'See,' said he, 'Master Thomas, the church can no longer say, Silver and gold have I none.' 'True,' replied he, 'neither can it use the words which follow: In the name of Jesus of Nazareth, rise up and walk.' Rise, Lord, and liberate Thy church from the power of demons and tyrants, from the hands of wicked prelates. Hast Thou forgotten Thy church? Dost Thou no longer hear? She is still Thy bride. She is still the same for which Thou didst humble Thyself and assume our nature, and suffer reproach and shed Thy blood upon the cross. Come, Lord, for her deliverance—come and punish those godless men; confound and humble them that we may peaceably serve Thee."

The effect of such apostrophes and appeals as these, delivered with impassioned fervour to an enthusiastic and excitable Italian audience, may be imagined. We can easily understand how readily such an audience would respond to them.

The following passage, in a very different style, is from the same course of sermons. He has been descanting on the inability of the unregenerate soul to comprehend the love of Christ, or "to participate in the feeling which prompted Paul to exclaim, 'I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord.'" "I will cheerfully endure all things for the sake of that redeeming love which makes all other things sweet and pleasant to me. This is sufficient for me, and fills up all my desires. This is

my exceeding great reward. If I possessed all the world, but had no part in Christ, I should be utterly destitute. But if I possess Thee, O my Saviour, and nothing else besides, I possess in Thee everything; because Thou art 'all, and in all.' In Thee is the sum of all good; out of Thee is no real good. In Thee are riches incorruptible and eternal; in Thee honour and glory true and imperishable; in Thee health and beauty free from change or decay; in Thee is knowledge without error, pleasure without bitterness, light without darkness, life without death, good without admixture of evil. Truly it is good for me to draw nigh unto God. I give myself, O blessed Jesus, for ever unto Thee."

We cannot wonder that, under such rulers as the church then had, the fearless preacher was persecuted to the death. He was strangled and burnt in the Piazza del Gran Duca, in front of the Palazzo Vecchio and



THE PALAZZO VECCHIO.

the court of the Signiory, where he had for some years before exercised such a mighty influence over the Florentines.\*

In the long list of illustrious Florentines, the name of Dante holds the first place. He, like Savonarola, thundered out his denunciations of the corruptions of the papacy, and like him, too, endured the bitterness of persecution and exile. Though living six centuries ago, his birthplace is still pointed out; and the stone bench on which he used to sit is an object of reverential pride to his fellow citizens. It is in the Piazza del Duomo, and looks upon the cathedral, the

\* For details of the life and martyrdom of this illustrious man, see a biographical tract published by the Religious Tract Society, entitled *Savonarola, the Florentine Reformer*.

Campanile of Giotto, and the Baptistery. His portrait by Giotto has recently been discovered on the walls of the Bargello. It represents a face of singular delicacy, beauty, and force. Though some doubts have been thrown upon its authenticity, the general current of opinion is strongly in favour of its being a genuine and original portrait of the great poet. Driven into banishment by his foes, he endured, as he tells us, the hardship of climbing the stairs of strangers, and the bitterness of eating the bread of patrons. Buried at Ravenna, his countrymen, repenting of their hostility, begged that his ashes might be restored to them: but their prayers were refused. How fondly he cherished the memory of his birthplace is evident on almost every page of his great poem; for amidst his denunciation of the follies and vices of the Florentines, he dwells with loving minuteness on all the details of the varied scenery and architecture of the ungrateful city which had cast him forth.

Dante may justly be classed with Savonarola among "the Reformers before the Reformation." Not content with scourging the vices of the clergy, the corruptions of the church, and the worldly ambition of the pontiffs, he displays considerable knowledge of the Scriptures, and of evangelical truth in its scholastic forms. Thus, in the 7th canto of the *Paradiso*, Beatrice is represented as explaining the mode of redemption by the atonement of Christ:



PORTRAIT OF DANTE.  
(From the Picture by Giotto.)

"Adam, submitting not that God should place  
A salutary curb upon his will,  
Condemned himself, and with him all his race;  
Who thence, infirm and weak, e'en from their birth,  
For ages lay in error grovelling, till  
The Word of God descended upon earth.  
Then was the nature, that rebellious strove  
Against its Maker, to His person joined  
By the sole act of His eternal Love."

There was no way of ransom and restoration save by the exercise of Divine mercy and Divine justice. The exercise of mercy alone would have left just punishment unfulfilled; the exercise of justice would have involved all mankind in merciless misery.

"Behoved it then that God should lead again  
His creature to pure life by his own ways:—  
Either I say by one, or by the twain (Justice and Mercy).

# ILLUSTRIOUS FLORENTINES.

But, since the work is deemed of greater worth  
 The more the Agent's goodness it displays,  
 And manifests the heart that gave it birth,  
 The Good Supreme, whose stamp benign on all  
 His works is written, chose the twofold way  
 Your fallen race from misery to recall.  
 Nor in the one or other, since the time  
 The first sun shone unto the latest day,  
 Hath been, or shall be, project so sublime.  
 Giving Himself a ransom for mankind.  
 His bounty God more evidently shewed  
 Than if He merely had a pardon signed.  
 And every other mode had wholly failed,  
 As short of Justice, if the Son of God  
 Had not in flesh His God-head humbly veiled."



TOMB OF DANTE AT RAVENNA.

Amongst the most illustrious of Florentines was Michael Angelo. Painter, sculptor, architect, civil and military engineer, and poet, he was one of the most variously accomplished men who ever lived: and in every one of these departments he was great. Nothing that came forth from his hands was mean or poor. His faults were those of superabundant strength and force. St. Peter's at Rome is one amongst the many buildings which display his power as an

architect. The paintings in the Sistine Chapel have already been referred to as illustrations of his genius as a painter. As a sculptor, he is perhaps unrivalled since the palmy days of Greece and Rome. In the great engineering works of his time, his advice and co-operation were eagerly sought, both in peace and war. That he is less known as a poet is mainly due to the fact that his sonnets are often mystical in thought and obscure in expression. The following, however, translated by Wordsworth, will show how pure and devout was the spirit which pervaded his writings and was exemplified in his life:

"TO THE SUPREME BEING.

"The prayers I make will then be sweet indeed,  
If Thou the spirit give by which I pray:  
My unassisted heart is barren clay,  
Which of its native self can nothing feed:  
Of good and pious works Thou art the seed,  
Which quickens only where Thou say'st it may.  
Unless Thou show to us Thine own true way,  
No man can find it: Father! Thou must lead.  
Do Thou, then, breathe those thoughts into my mind  
By which such virtue may in me be bred  
That in Thy holy footsteps I may tread;  
The fetters of my tongue do Thou unbind,  
That I may have the power to sing of Thee,  
And sound Thy praises everlastingly."

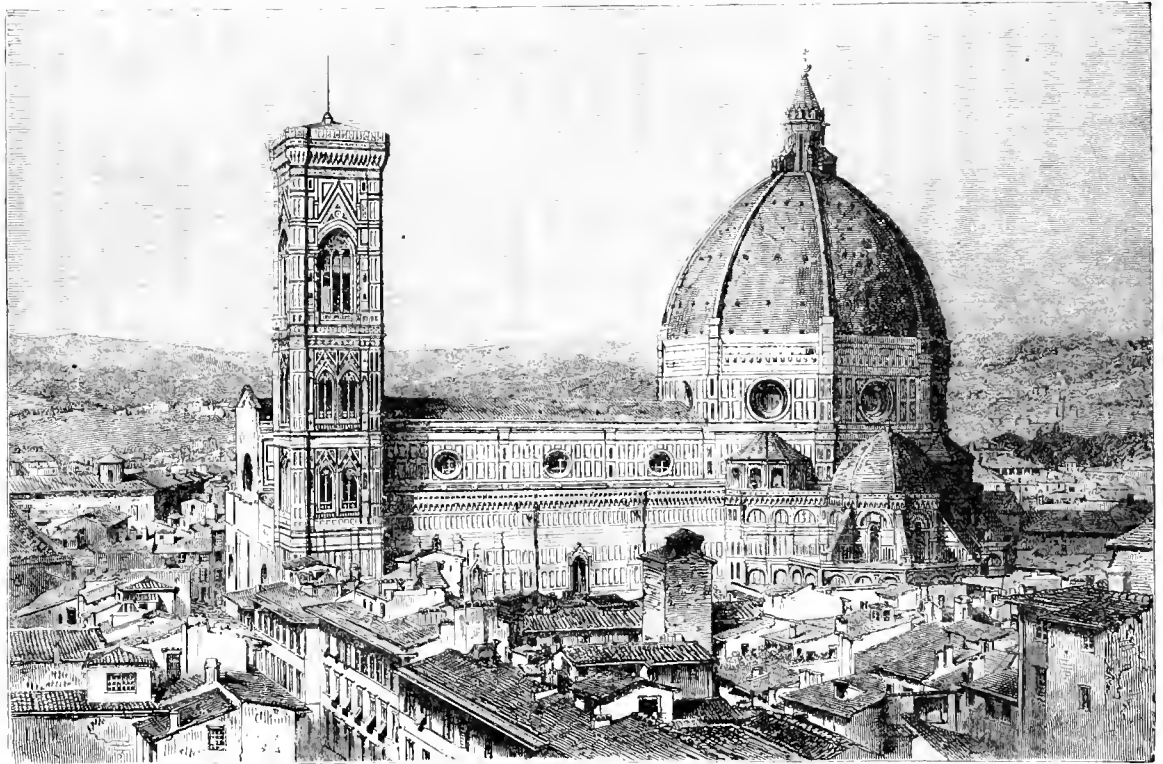
But the briefest possible summary of the lives of the illustrious men who were Florentine by birth or adoption would demand a volume. We hasten to mention some of the buildings which adorn the Athens of Italy. Chief among its ecclesiastical edifices is the magnificent group composed of the Duomo, the Campanile of Giotto, and the Baptistery. The interior of the cathedral is at first view disappointing. The sombre, colourless walls, the dim light, and the almost entire absence of enrichment or decoration, have a meagre effect. But by degrees the simple purity of the lines, and the grand sweep of the dome, impress the spectator. The richly jewelled windows, which are overlooked at first from their smallness, soon attract the eye and add to the general effect. The dome, which is the largest in the world, suggested that of St. Peter's. As Michael Angelo passed it on his way to undertake the erection of the great basilica at Rome, he is reported to have looked up to it and said, "Like you I will not be; better, I cannot be."

At one corner of the cathedral stands the Campanile of Giotto - the pride of Florence. Mr. Ruskin has described it so admirably, that we cannot do better than quote his words:

"The characteristics of Power and Beauty occur more or less in different buildings, some in one and some in another. But all together, and all in their highest possible relative degrees, they exist, as far as I know, only in one building in the world—the Campanile of Giotto, at Florence. . . . I remember well how, when a boy, I used to despise that Campanile, and think it meanly

## THE CAMPANILE OF GIOTTO.

smooth and finished. But I have since lived beside it many a day, and looked out upon it from my windows by sunlight and moonlight, and I shall not soon forget how profound and gloomy appeared to me the savageness of the Northern Gothic, when I afterwards stood, for the first time, beneath the front of Salisbury. The contrast is indeed strange, if it could be quickly felt, between the rising of those grey walls out of their quiet swarded space, like dark and barren rocks out of a green lake, with their rude, mouldering, rough-grained shafts, and triple lights, without tracery or other ornament than the martins' nests in the height of them, and that bright, smooth, sunny surface of glowing jasper, those spiral

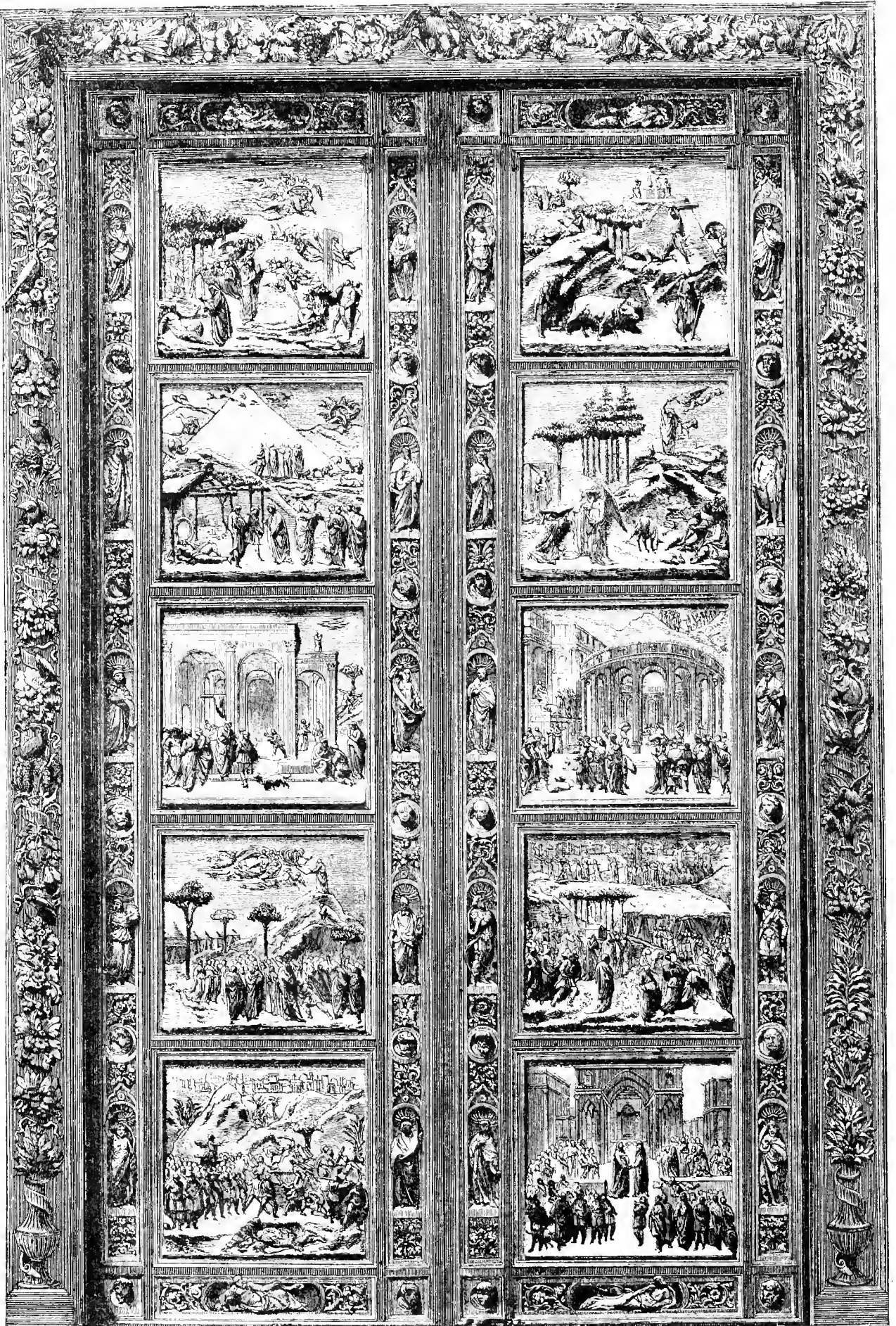


THE DUOMO AND CAMPANILE.

shafts and fairy traceries, so white, so faint, so crystalline, that their slight shapes are hardly traced in darkness on the pallor of the Eastern sky, that serene height of mountain alabaster, coloured like a morning cloud, and chased like a sea-shell. And if this be, as I believe it, the model and mirror of perfect architecture, is there not something to be learned by looking back to the early life of him who raised it? I said that the Power of human mind had its growth in the Wilderness; much more must the love and the conception of that beauty, whose every line and hue we have seen to be, at the best, a faded image of God's daily work, and an arrested ray of some star of creation, be given chiefly in the places which He has gladdened by planting there the fir-tree and the







pine. Not within the walls of Florence, but among the far-away fields of her lilies, was the child trained who was to raise that headstone of Beauty above her towers of watch and war. Remember all that he became; count the sacred thoughts with which he filled the heart of Italy; ask those who followed him what they learned at his feet; and when you have numbered his labours, and received their testimony, if it seem to you that God had verily poured out upon this His servant no common nor restrained portion of His Spirit, and that he was indeed a king among the children of men, remember also that the legend upon his crown was that of David's: 'I took thee from the shepcote, and from following the sheep.'"

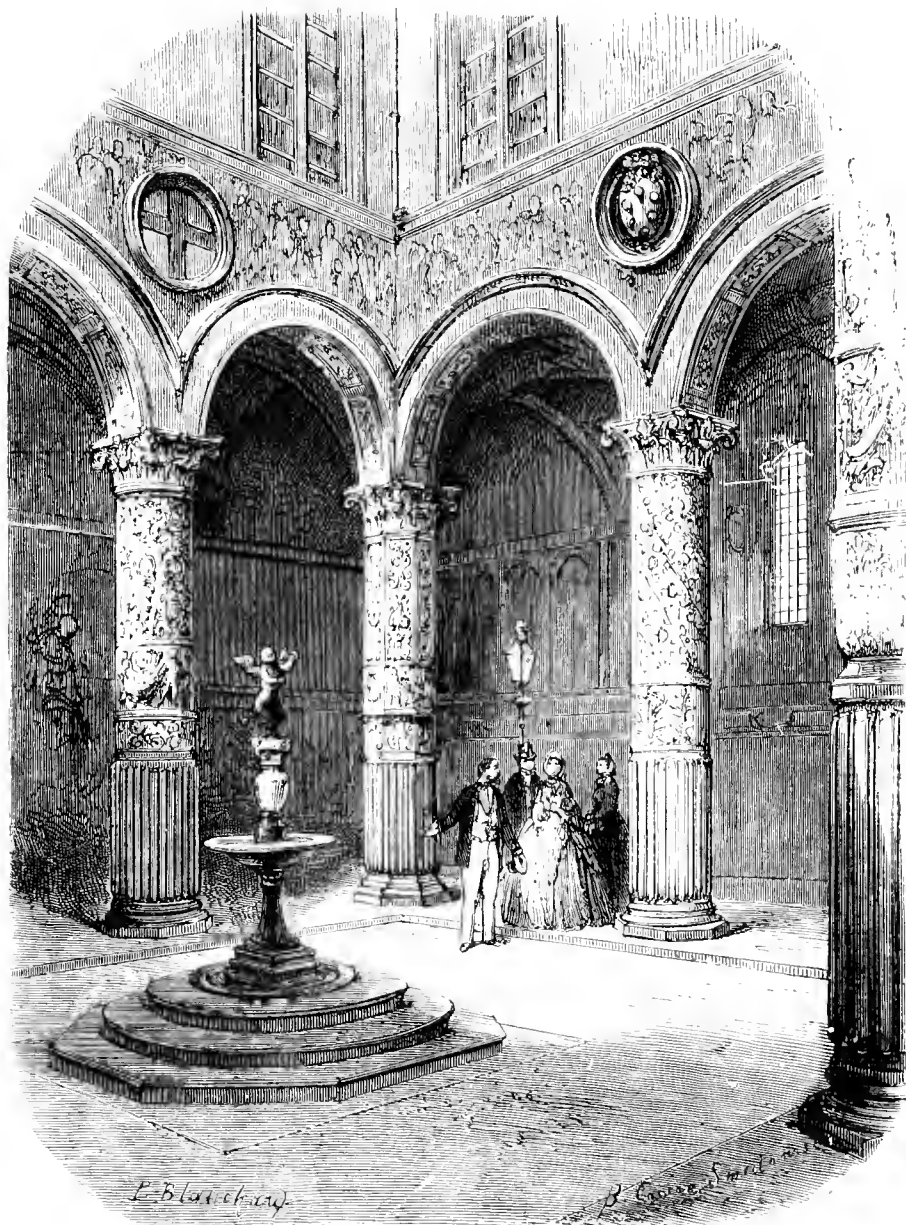
Across the square in front of the Cathedral and Campanile, is the Baptistery of St. John. The Florentines affirm that it was originally a temple dedicated to Mars, but admit that little remains of the pagan edifice beyond the general design. It is, however, not older than the seventh century, though some of the columns may be of an earlier date. The mosaics of the floor and ceiling, and the frescoes round the walls, have a very striking effect. But the glory of this edifice are its great bronze doors, one of which, engraved on the opposite page, was so admired by Michael Angelo, that he declared it worthy to be the Gate of Paradise.

Of the other churches of Florence, only a few can be mentioned here, *Santa Croce* is the Westminster Abbey of the Florentines. Here are monuments to Michael Angelo, Aretino, Galileo, Dante, Filicaja, Raphael, Morghen, Macchiavelli, Alfieri, Melloni, and many others. The church of *San Lorenzo* is chiefly famous for its Medicean Chapel, lined with the richest marbles, jasper, agate, lapis-lazuli, and other precious stones; and for the Sacristy, containing the monuments erected to the Medici by Michael Angelo. The colossal figures of Morning and Evening, and Day and Night, with the life-size statues of Giuliano and Lorenzo de' Medici, deserve all the praise which has been lavished upon them, and are alone sufficient to establish the reputation of Michael Angelo as one of the very greatest sculptors the world has seen. *Santa Maria Novella*, in addition to the treasures of art which it contains, is interesting from its connection with the *Decameron* of Boccaccio. The *Annunziata* is a blaze of colour from its paintings, marbles, precious stones, and its altars covered with gold and silver. These are but a few of the ecclesiastical edifices in Florence, each of which is noteworthy from its historical associations, its architectural merits, or the works of art it contains.

The secular edifices of Florence are interesting, more from their historical associations than their architectural merits. The Palazzo Vecchio was erected in 1298 for the Gonfaloniere and Magistracy of the Republic. For many ages it formed the centre of the political life of the Florentines. A magnificent staircase leads from the court up to the vast hall in which Savonarola convened the citizens in his futile attempts to restore their ancient liberties. This hall, much mutilated, was used for the meeting of the Italian deputies until the

THE PIAZZA DELLA SIGNORIA.

removal of the capital to Rome. In front of the Palazzo Vecchio, in the Piazza della Signoria, and in the Loggia dei Lanzi, stand some of the finest statues in Florence. Here are the David of Michael Angelo, the Perseus of Benvenuto



COURT OF THE PALAZZO VECCHIO.

Cellini, the Rape of the Sabines by John of Bologna, and other works of art of world-wide reputation. The David is thought by some to be Michael Angelo's masterpiece. The youth has just confronted the Philistine. His nostrils and

THE PITTI AND UFFIZI GALLERIES.

throat seem to swell with indignation at the blasphemies he hears. His whole attitude expresses confidence in the victory he is about to gain, and yet a shade of anxiety is passing across his face as he advances to the unequal conflict.



THE UFFIZI, THE PALAZZO VECCHIO, AND STATUARY IN THE PIAZZA.

It is with a sense of surprise that visitors to Florence find works of genius such as these standing in the open air, amidst the busy life of the people.

To describe the treasures of art in the Pitti and Uffizi galleries would require a volume. They contain some thousands of statues, paintings, and



## VALLOMBROSA.

mosaics. Of course in so vast a collection there are many of inferior merit, but the proportion of these is less than in almost any other great gallery, and the works of art which are recognised as masterpieces are very numerous. The Venus de' Medici and Madonna della Seggiola would alone suffice to make the reputation of the gallery which contained them.

For years Florence has been the centre of evangelical activity in Italy. After a period of bitter persecution under the Grand Ducal government, liberty of worship is now enjoyed, and several Protestant congregations meet every Lord's day. The Waldensian church has here its college for the training of pastors. From the Claudian press, supported by funds contributed by the Religious Tract Society and other friends in England and America, numbers of



CONVENT OF VALLOMBROSA.

publications are spread throughout the peninsula. These include books, tracts, periodicals—the *Eco della Verità* and *Amico dei Fanciulli*—and an almanack, the *Amico di Casa*, containing a large amount of scriptural truth.

Amongst the many charming spots in the neighbourhood of Florence, none repays a visit more fully than Vallombrosa. The monastery, now suppressed, is approached through forests of beech, chestnut, oak, and pine, with open spaces of turf deliciously green, and steep walls of rock, which enclose the shady valley (*Val Ombrosa*), from which it takes its name. Every English visitor will remember the lines in *Paradise Lost*:

“Thick as autumnal leaves that strew the brooks  
In Vallombrosa, where Etrurian shades  
High over arched embower.”



The accuracy of these lines is confirmed by Beckford, who speaks of "the showers of leaves which blew full in our faces as we approached the convent." Indeed Milton was intimately acquainted with Florence and its neighbourhood, having resided here for some time, when he paid his memorable visit to Galileo.

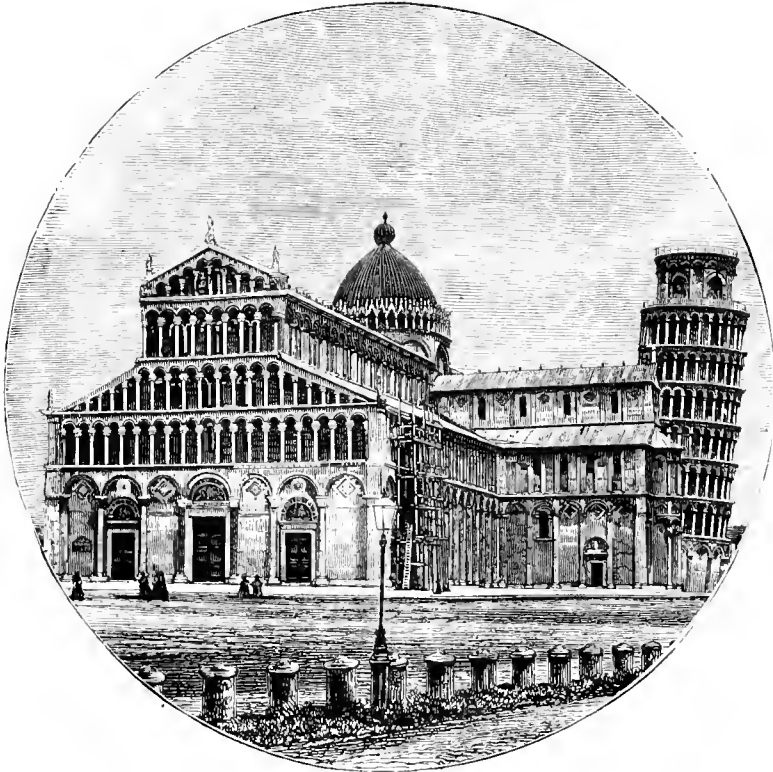
Pisa, the ancient rival of Florence, has dwindled down into a small provincial town, less than a fifth of its former size. Grass-grown streets, and vacant spaces within the walls, tell of past prosperity and present decay. The city which equipped one hundred and twenty ships for the first crusade, which reduced the Emperor Alexius to submission, which sent out an expedition of three hundred vessels, thirty-five thousand men, and nine hundred horses, for the conquest of the Balearic Islands, and which maintained mercantile colonies throughout Greece, the Levant, and Asia Minor, has now a population little exceeding twenty thousand persons.

When we remember the wealth, the power, and the glory of the Italian cities, an inquiry into the causes of their decay becomes deeply interesting. It was due in part to the incessant hostilities which raged among them. The energy and genius which ought to have been employed for mutual advantage were wasted in frantic efforts for mutual destruction. Neighbouring cities waged war upon each other with insane fury: and each city was split up into hostile camps. Guelphs and Ghibelines, Bianchi and Neri, deluged the streets with each others' blood. The great families held their palaces as strongholds, fitted either for attack or defence. Every man's house was his castle, in a sense very different from that in which we understand the words. In Rome the Colosseum, the Arch of Titus, the tombs of Hadrian and of Cecilia Metella, and the temples of the gods, were turned into fortresses by the Frangipani, the Annibaldi, the Orsini, and the Colonnas. Blood feuds, as causeless and as purposeless as an Irish faction-fight, were handed down from father to son through successive generations. Upon the languor caused by centuries of anarchy, there supervened the benumbing influences of despotism. The cities and the factions which emerged victorious from the strife crushed their rivals into the dust, whilst they themselves yielded to the domination of some great family, to which they surrendered their liberties as the price of revenge upon their enemies. It was at this period of exhaustion that the discovery of the route to India by the Cape deprived the Italian cities of the advantages of position which they had hitherto enjoyed. The tide of commerce ebbed away from their shores and flowed into other channels. Spain, Portugal, and England gained what Italy had lost. It is a noteworthy coincidence, that at the very time when the unification of Italy under the present government has terminated the intestine feuds of ages, the opening of the Suez Canal should again restore to the peninsula her former advantages of position, and carry past her shores the commerce of the East.

The remains of the ancient glories of Pisa are grouped together in one "sacred corner." The Cathedral, the Baptistry, the Leaning Tower, the Campo Santo, form a combination of buildings scarcely surpassed in interest

and beauty by any in the world. The Cathedral was erected to commemorate the victory of the Pisans over the Saracens in Sicily, in 1063. Having forced an entrance into the harbour of Palermo, they carried off six large treasure-ships, and devoted a large portion of the spoils to the construction of an edifice which, "in the ecclesiastical architecture of Italy, remained for long not only unrivalled, but alone in its superiority."

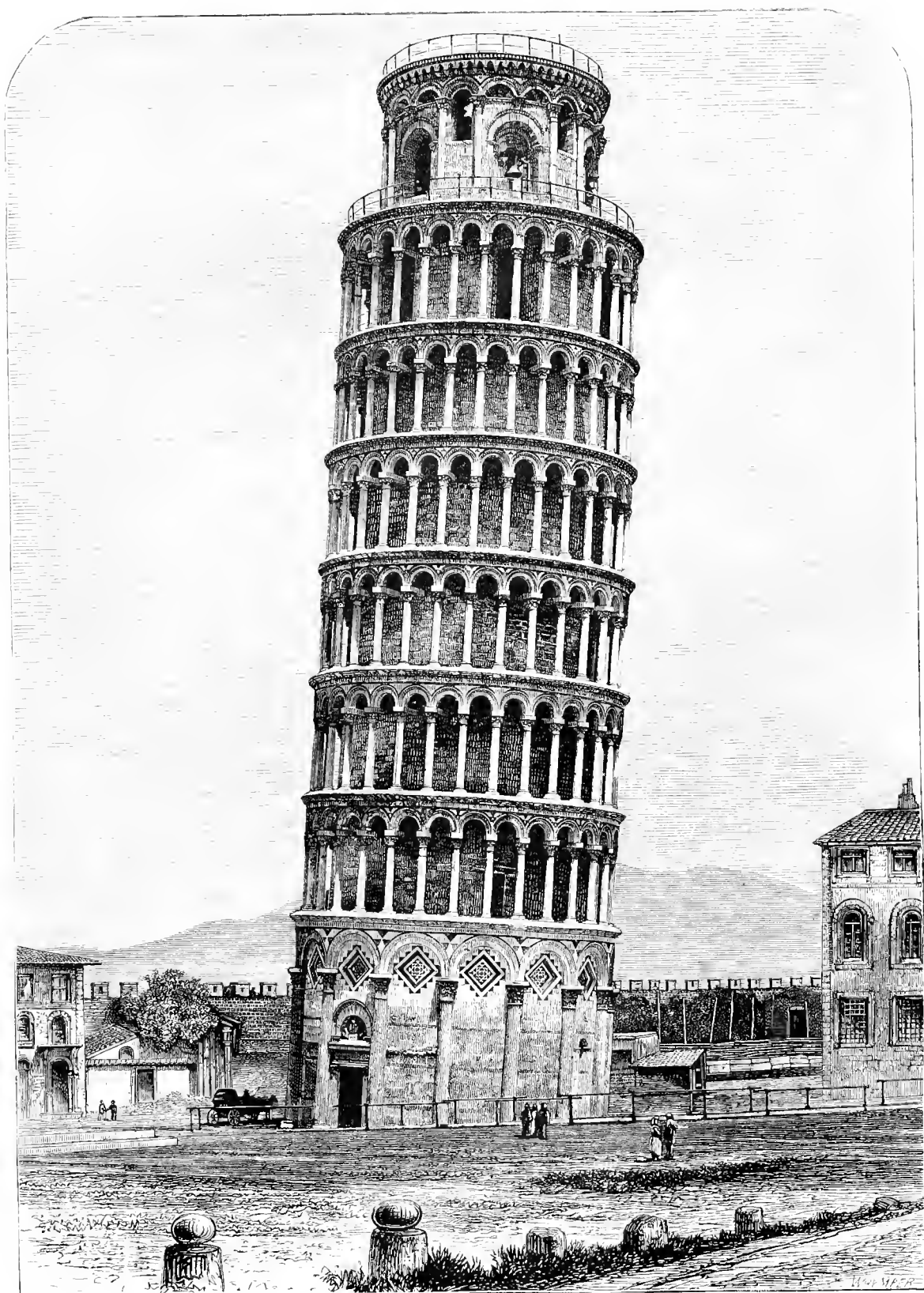
The Campanile of the cathedral, better known as the Leaning Tower of Pisa, was commenced about a century after the cathedral. It consists of eight tiers of columns with semicircular arches, each tier forming a sort of arcade or



THE CATHEDRAL AND CAMPANILE PISA.

open gallery. The lower story is thirty-five feet high, the upper stories are each about twenty feet, making together one hundred and seventy-nine feet. From the summit a magnificent view is gained, extending to the Lucchese Hills on the one side, and on the other far over the Mediterranean to Gorgona, or even Corsica. The Pisans pretend that the deviation of the tower from the perpendicular is a part of the original design, but it is manifestly due to the sinking of the ground, from which the cathedral has also greatly suffered.

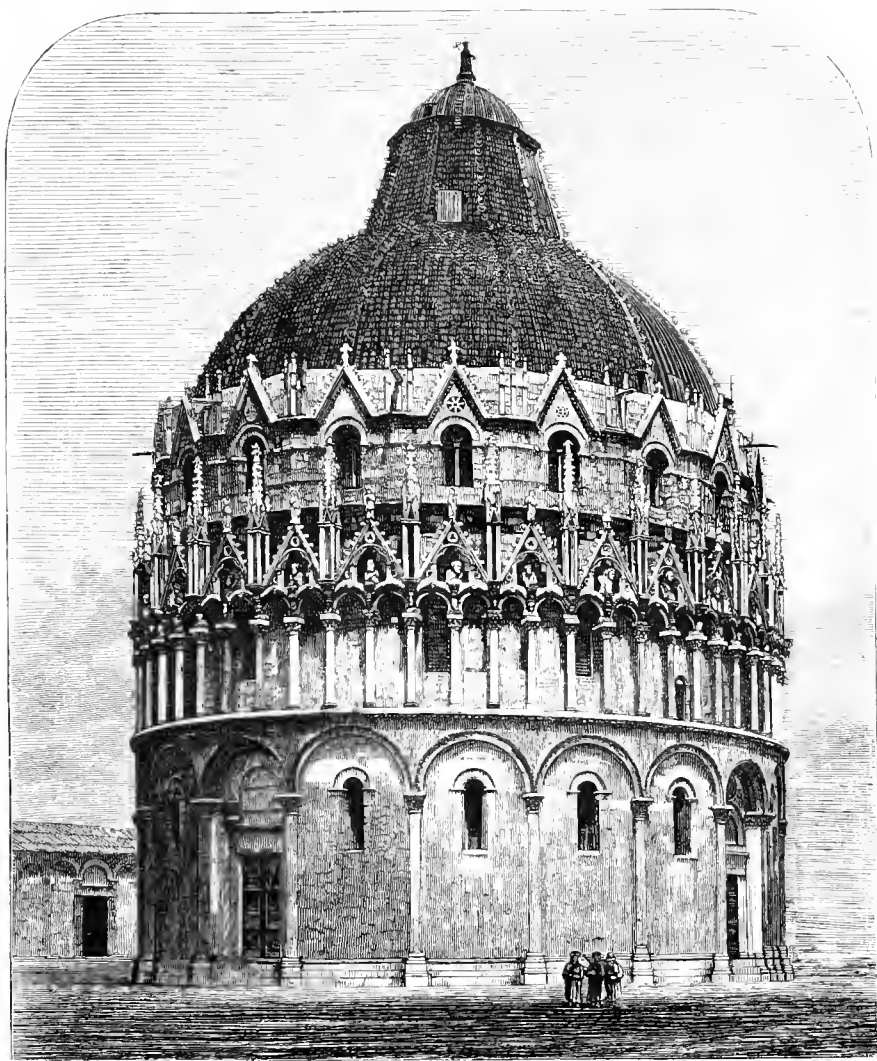
The Baptistery was commenced a few years before the Campanile, but it remained unfinished for many generations, and seems not to have been completed before the fourteenth century. This accounts for the mixture of



THE LEANING TOWER, PISA.



architectural styles and a want of harmony in its ornamentation. A somewhat unsightly cone rises from the dome and mars the general effect. But most visitors will concur in the verdict of so competent a judge as Mr. Fergusson, who says: "Even as it is, the beauty of its details and the exuberance of its ornaments render it externally a most captivating design, though internally it possesses neither elegance of form nor beauty of any sort."

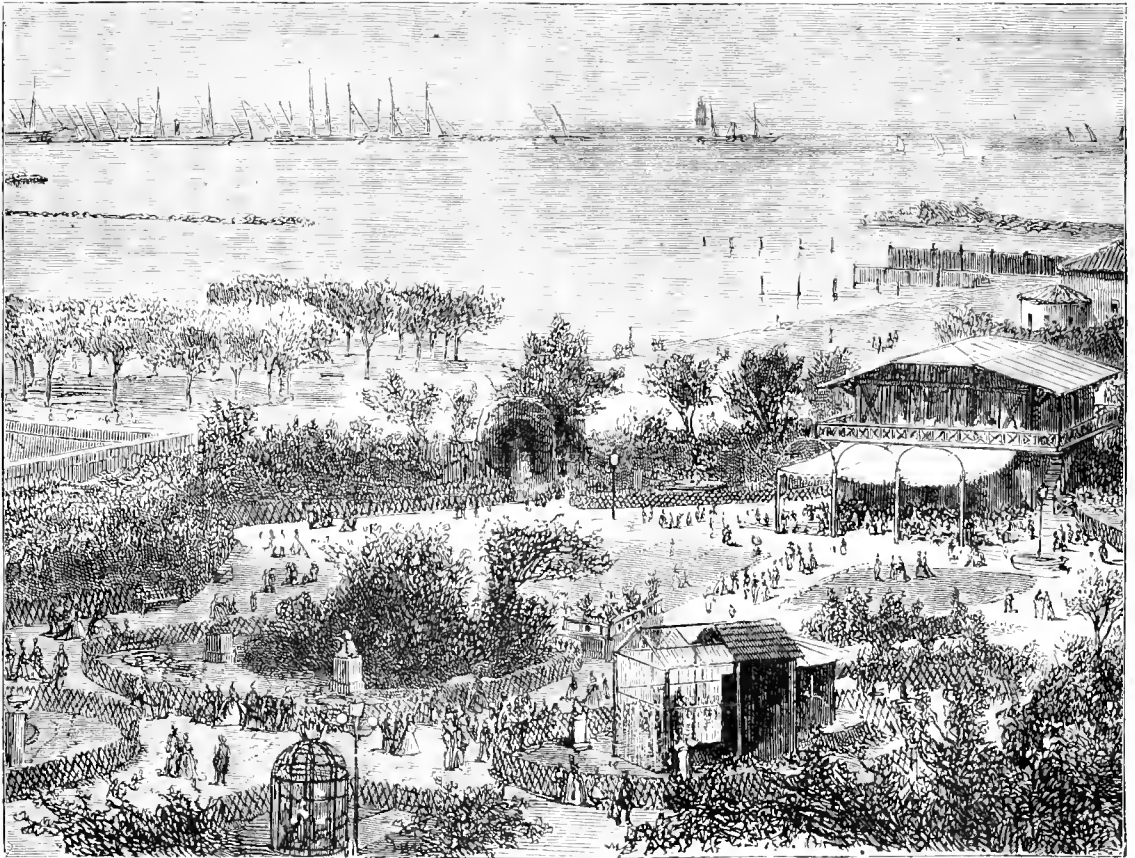


THE BAPTISTERY, PISA.

The Campo Santo lies between the Baptistery, the Duomo, and the Campanile on one side, and the old city walls on the other. It was formed by the Archbishop Ubaldo Lanfranchi, who on his expulsion from Palestine by Saladin, brought back with him fifty-three vessels laden with soil from the traditional site of Calvary. A century and a half later the sacred earth was enclosed by John of Pisa. Giotto and other eminent artists were employed

to decorate the walls with frescoes. The paintings, however, have to a great extent faded from the walls, and in many cases have peeled off altogether. However interesting they may be to artists, they now possess little attraction to the general visitor. The Campo Santo contains a large number of Roman and mediæval sarcophagi, as well as some modern monuments of great merit.

Leghorn has inherited a great measure of the mercantile prosperity once enjoyed by Pisa. Under the wise commercial policy of the Tuscan government, it rose from a small fishing village to a city containing 100,000 persons.



PUBLIC GARDENS AND ROADSIDE OF LEGHORN.

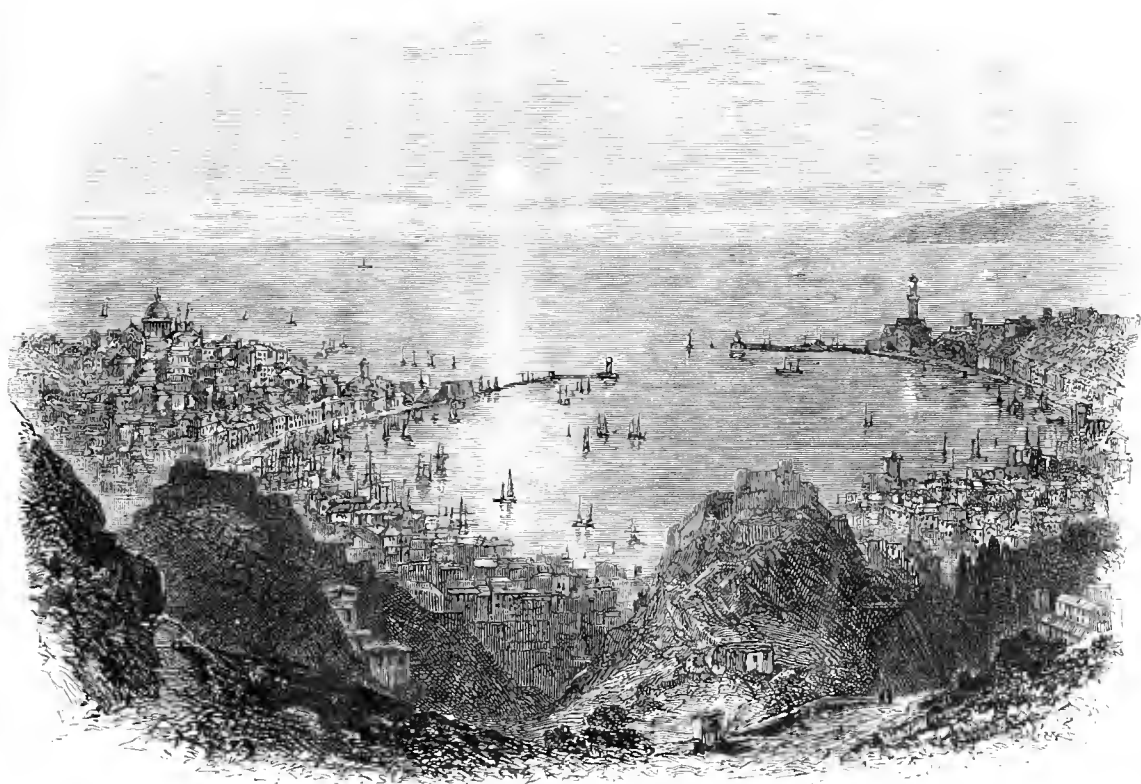
Its harbour is visited by the vessels of all nations, and in 1868 its merchant navy was returned as 650 vessels, with a capacity of 38,028 tons. To the artist or antiquarian it contains few objects of interest. It is, however, a lively and prosperous city, contrasting very strikingly, in this respect, with the decayed and poverty-stricken magnificence of the older capitals of Italy. A stroll along the busy quays, with the blue waters of the Mediterranean rolling in upon the beach, and the islands of Elba, Gorgona, Capraja, and Corsica on the horizon, forms a most agreeable change after a tour amongst the inland cities of the peninsula.



## GENOA.

Genoa, which was the rival and deadly enemy of Pisa in her prosperous days, has continued to retain a large amount of commercial activity. In the year 1868, nearly half the mercantile navy of Italy was Genoese.\* Even this, however, is a considerable falling off from the time when the merchant princes of *Genova la Superba* held the first place in the commerce of the world.

The situation of the city is magnificent. Seen from the heights which rise above it, or from the extremity of the Molo Nuova, it may bear comparison with the view of Naples from the Castle of San Elmo or the Castel del Ovo.



GENOA, FROM THE HEIGHTS.

The streets in the older parts of Genoa are very narrow and steep, being seldom wide enough to admit a wheel-carriage, and the houses are so high as only to show a slender strip of blue sky. This mode of building has advantages in a hot climate, securing constant shade and comparative coolness, but it has a mean appearance; and the visitor who has been impressed by the distant view of the city is disappointed when he finds himself entangled in a labyrinth of narrow lanes. There is, however, one line of streets—the Strade Balbi, Nuovissima, and Nuova—which is unsurpassed in Europe. The marble palaces

\* The exact figures were as follows:

Genoa—Sailing Vessels,	1,832;	tons,	351,157.	Steamers,	59;	tons,	13,378;	horse power,	7,439.	
All Italy—	„	17,690;	„	792,430.	„	98;	„	23,091;	„	12,259.

## GENOA.

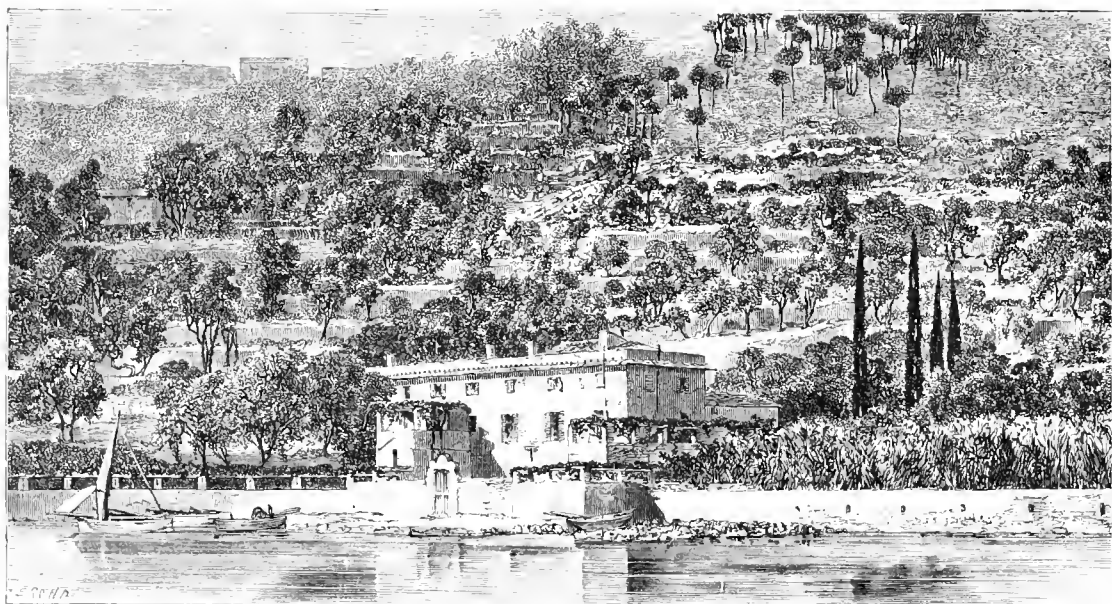
of the old Genoese nobles rise in stately magnificence on either hand. They are built with a central quadrangle, bright with fountains, flowers, and orange-



THE ARSENAL, GENOA.

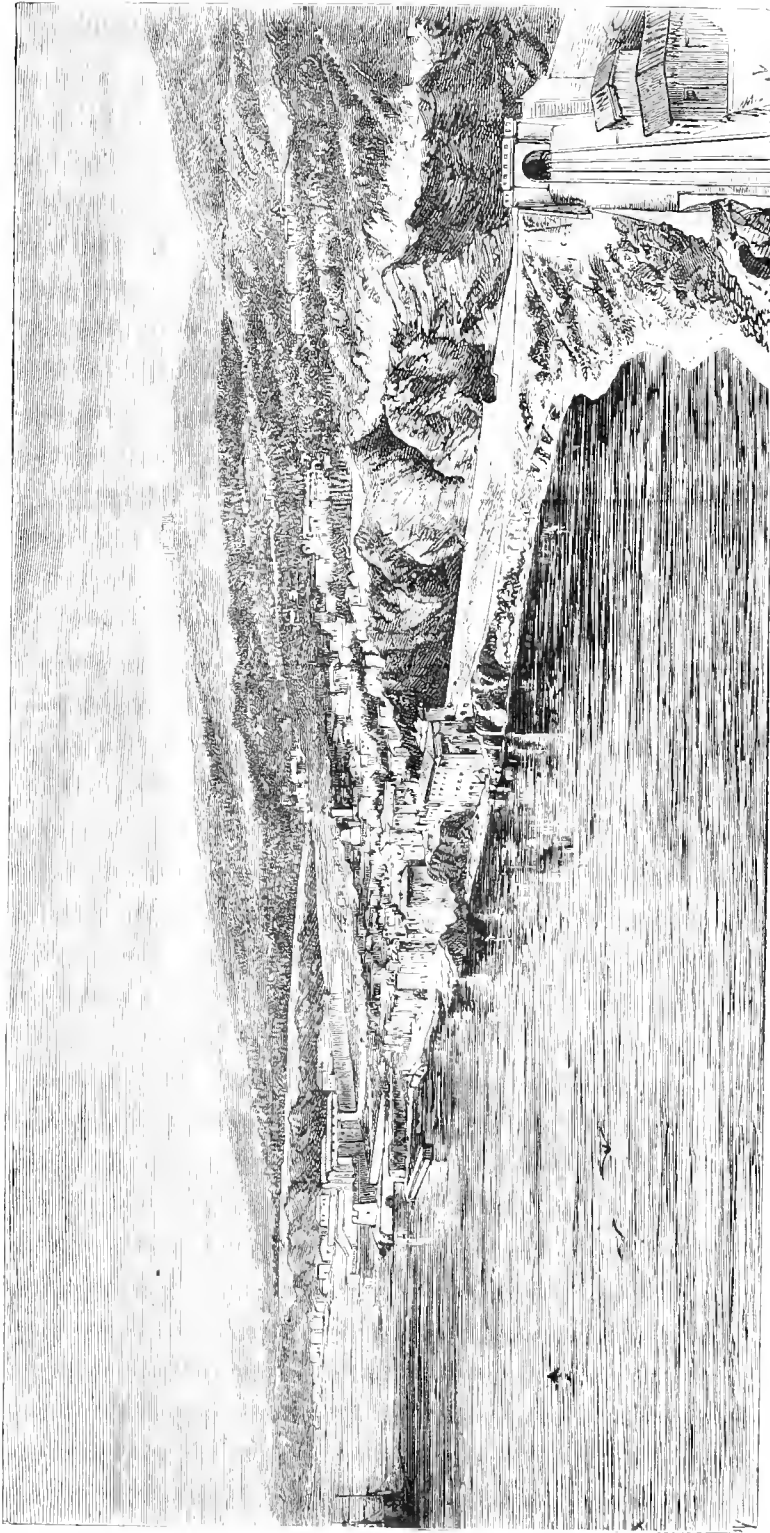
groves, and open to the public view through a wide and lofty gateway. Of late years, however, much of the effect has been lost from the fact that the lower stories have been turned into shops and places of business.

The animosities which prevailed amongst the Italian cities, the result of long ages of internecine war, have been nowhere more bitter than in the case of Genoa. To call a man a Genoese is still an opprobrious epithet throughout Northern Italy. And a Tuscan proverb declares that Genoa has "a sea without fish, mountains without trees, men without honour, and women without modesty." These animosities are slowly but surely dying out under a united national government. Of this a striking illustration has recently been given. In front of the Dogana there hung, as a trophy of victory, a portion of the massive chain which closed the port of Pisa, and which was carried off by the Genoese, when, in 1290, under Conrad Doria, they crushed the Pisan power, blocked up the harbour, and destroyed its commerce. These chains, after a lapse of nearly six centuries, were restored to Pisa as a mark of amity, when both were united under one national and constitutional government.



ISLAND OF PALMARIA, OPPOSITE LA SPEZIA.

The shores of the Gulf of Genoa afford some of the finest coast-scenery in the world. Every reader of Rogers' *Italy* will remember his glowing description of a moonlight sail from La Spezia, and every one who has travelled along the Riviera from Nice will feel that it would be difficult, perhaps impossible, to exaggerate the beauty of the scene. For its full enjoyment, however, it is necessary to follow the old Corniche road. The railway recently opened runs too near the sea, and in many of the grandest points of view it plunges into tunnels, which tantalise the traveller by cutting off the glorious prospect at the moment when he has caught but a glimpse of it. The old road, for the most part, traversed the sides of the mountains instead of burrowing into them, and followed a much higher level, especially where the mountains come down to



VILLAFRANCA AND RAILWAY FROM NICE TO GENOA.

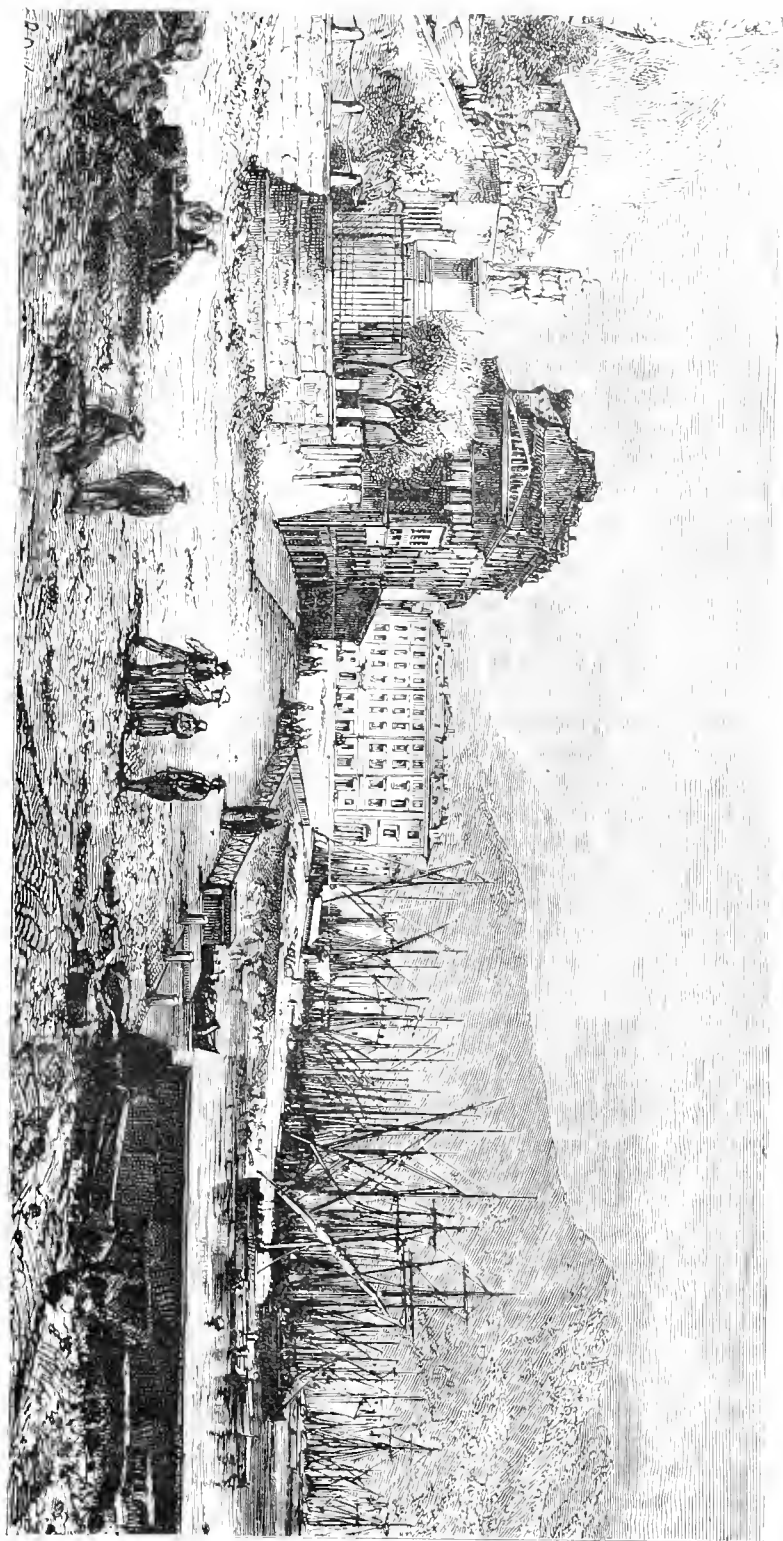
the sea. A curious reason is assigned for this. It was one of the great military roads constructed by Napoleon, in order to facilitate the movement of his armies into Italy. But the British fleet having the command of the Mediterranean, it was necessary that the French troops should be kept out of the range of our artillery, so as to secure their safe and undisputed passage. Hence the seeming paradox, that the maritime supremacy of England caused the construction of the most picturesque drive in Europe.

Amongst the various descriptions which have been attempted, in prose and poetry, of the scenery of the Riviera, perhaps that by Signor Ruffini is the best. Its minute and photographic accuracy will be attested by every visitor :

“ Few of the public highways of

Europe are more favoured than this—few, at any rate, combine in themselves three such elements of natural beauty as the Mediterranean on one side, the Apennines on the other, and overhead the splendours of an Italian sky. The industry of man has done what it could, if not to vie with, at least not to disparage Nature. Numerous towns and villages, some gracefully seated on the shore, bathing their feet in the silvery wave, some stretching up the mountain sides like a flock of sheep, or thrown picturesquely astride a lofty ridge, with here and there a solitary sanctuary perched high on a sea-washed cliff, or half lost in a forest of verdure at the head of some glen; marble palaces and painted villas emerging from sunny vineyards, and gaily flowering gardens, or groves of orange and lemon

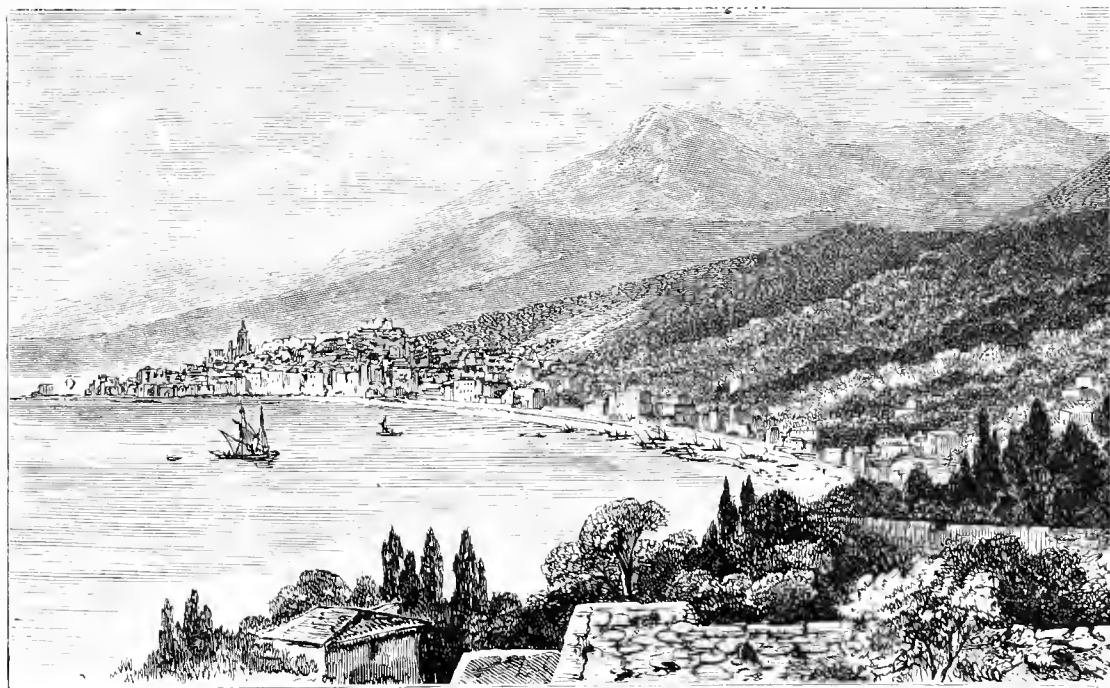
THE OLD PORT, NICE.





trees; myriads of white *Casini* with green jalousies, scattered all over hills, once sterile, but now, their scanty soil propped up by terrace shelving above terrace, clothed to the top with olive trees,—all and everything, in short, of man's handiwork betokens the activity and ingenuity of a tasteful and richly-endowed race.

"The road, in its obedience to the capricious indentations of the coast, is irregular and serpent-like; at one time on a level with the sea, it passes between hedges of tamarisk, aloes, and oleander, at another winds up some steep mountain side, through dark pine forests, rising to such a height, that the eye recoils terrified from looking into the abyss below; here it disappears into galleries cut in the living rock, there comes out upon a wide expanse



MENTONE.

of earth, sky, and water; now turns inland, with a seeming determination to force a passage across the mountain, anon shoots abruptly in an opposite direction, as if bent upon rushing headlong into the sea. The variety of prospect resulting from this continual shifting of the point of view, is as endless as that offered by the ever-changing combinations of a kaleidoscope. Could we but give this sketch a little of the colouring—real colouring, of the country, what a picture we should make of it! But we cannot. It is past the power of words to shadow out the brilliant transparency of this atmosphere, the tender azure of this sky, the deep blue of this sea, the soft gradations of tone tinting these wavy mountains, as they lap one over the other. The palette of a Stanfield, or a D'Azeglio, would scarcely be equal to the task."



It would far exceed the space at our disposal to describe or even enumerate the towns which lie along these shores, from Spezia, with its magnificent harbour, in which all the navies of Europe might lie at anchor, to Bordighiera, with its palm-groves; Mentone, which has become almost an English settlement, so numerous are the invalids who flock there to regain health from its soft and balmy air; Monaco, with its gambling and dissipation; and Nice, with its huge hotels and delightful promenades. Nice and the surrounding district is no longer Italian, having been incorporated with France since the campaign



MONACO.

which terminated at Solferino. The regret and resentment felt by the Italian people at the loss of the provinces of Nice and Savoy are tempered by the remembrance that it was the price they had to pay for the liberation of their country and its unity under a constitutional government.

The part played by the government of Turin in effecting the liberation and unification of Italy is matter of history, and need not be dwelt upon here. To the valour and good faith of her king, and to the wisdom of her statesmen, it is mainly due that the peninsula is no longer divided into a multiplicity of petty

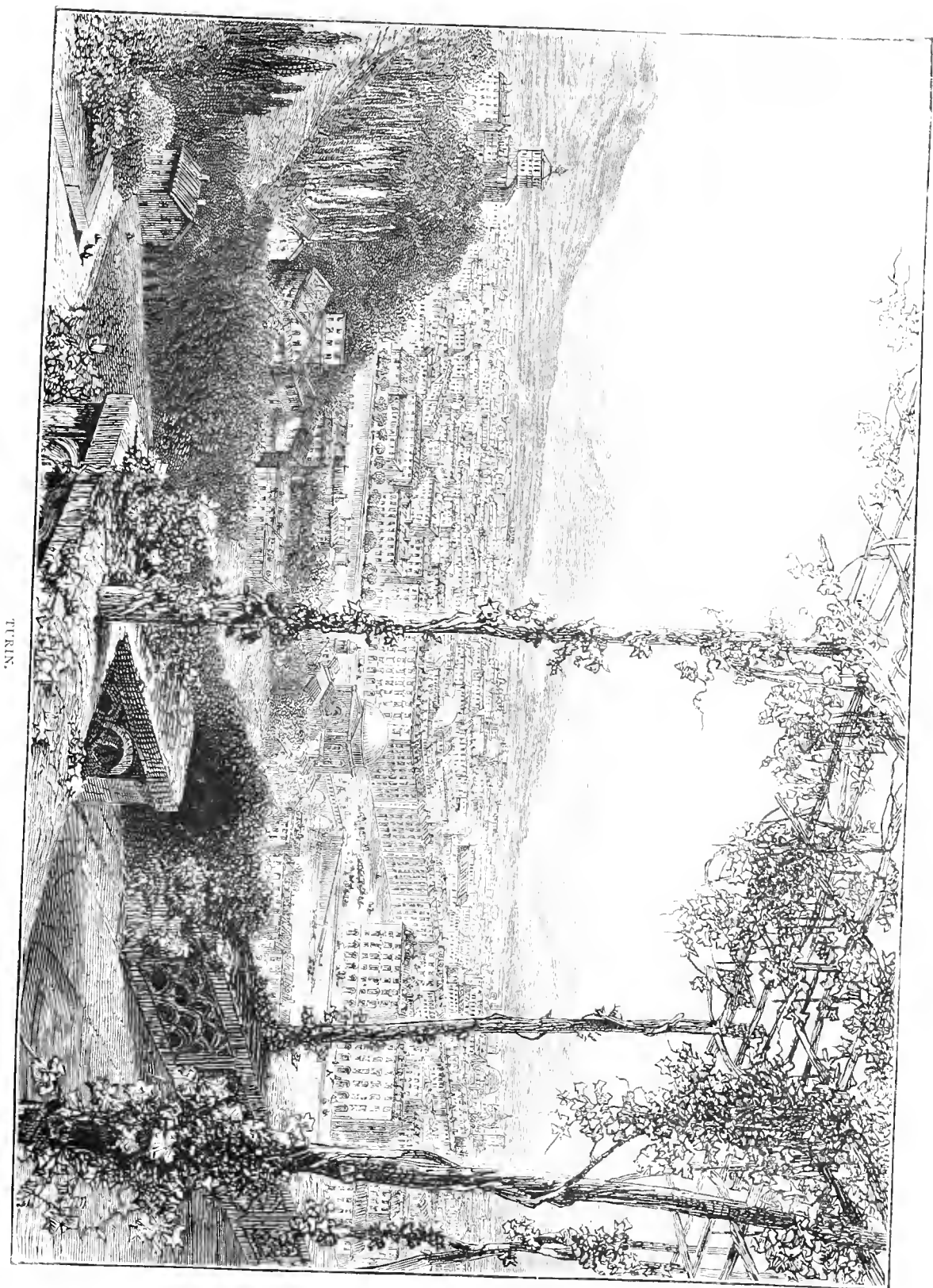
states, and tyrannised over by a multiplicity of petty rulers. The Piedmontese were well fitted to do the work allotted to them by Providence. The hardness, roughness, arrogance, and self-reliance ascribed to them by the other Italians were the very qualities requisite to carry out a great national movement to a successful issue. Piedmont, and the Piedmontese in their relationship to the rest of Italy, offer a striking parallel to that of Prussia and the Prussians in regard to Germany; the very faults of both combining with their excellences to make them fit instruments for carrying out the purpose to which they had set themselves.

There is not much in Turin to attract or detain the tourist. It has few historical associations, and little beauty or picturesqueness. Its streets, stiff, heavy, and formal, run in straight lines, intersecting each other at right angles, and enclosing huge square blocks of houses, which seldom offer any architectural features. But the mountain scenery of the neighbourhood is seen to great advantage from the city. A most striking effect is produced by looking down a long line of streets to the snowy Alps beyond.

The new Waldensian church, opened in December, 1853, is a handsome edifice. It bears over its chief entrance the appropriate inscription in letters of gold, "Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls" (Jer. vi. 16); and over the inner door the words, "God is a Spirit, and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth" (John iv. 24). The interior of the building is spacious, and has a chaste and yet substantial air about it. On the pulpit, in the centre panel, is a lighted candle, surrounded by the motto, "Lux lucet in tenebris"—the banner, so to speak, of the Vaudois Church. On the side-panels are engraved the texts John i. 1, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God," and 1 Cor. ii. 2, "For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified." These texts are admirably chosen as attesting the primitive simplicity, antiquity, and scripturalness of the Vaudois Church.

The Waldensian valleys are now easily accessible from Turin by a railway to Pignerol, whence a road, traversed by a diligence daily, takes the traveller to La Tour, the capital of the district. It is situated at the entrance of the valley of Luserna or Val Pellice to the left, and of Angrogna to the right. Beyond Angrogna, and parallel with it, but separated by a range of heights, is the valley of Perouse, from which opens the valley of St. Martin. Beyond are the French valleys, the scene of the self-denying labours of Felix Neff. The present extent of the Waldensian valleys is about twenty-two miles in the greatest length, by eighteen miles in breadth. They include a population of 20,000, amongst whom about 3000 Roman Catholics are dispersed.

Even apart from the stirring historical associations which make every spot memorable, the home of the Vaudois well deserves and repays a visit. Nowhere in the Alps is there to be found a more glorious combination of richness and



TURIN.



## THE WALDENSIAN VALLEYS.

beauty in the lower valleys, and wild magnificence and sublimity in the higher peaks and passes. Except at its upper extremity the mountains of the Val Angrogna are covered with wood up to their very summits; bold masses of rock rising from out the foliage into splintered peaks. The lower portion has considerable patches of cultivated ground. The meadows are enamelled with the

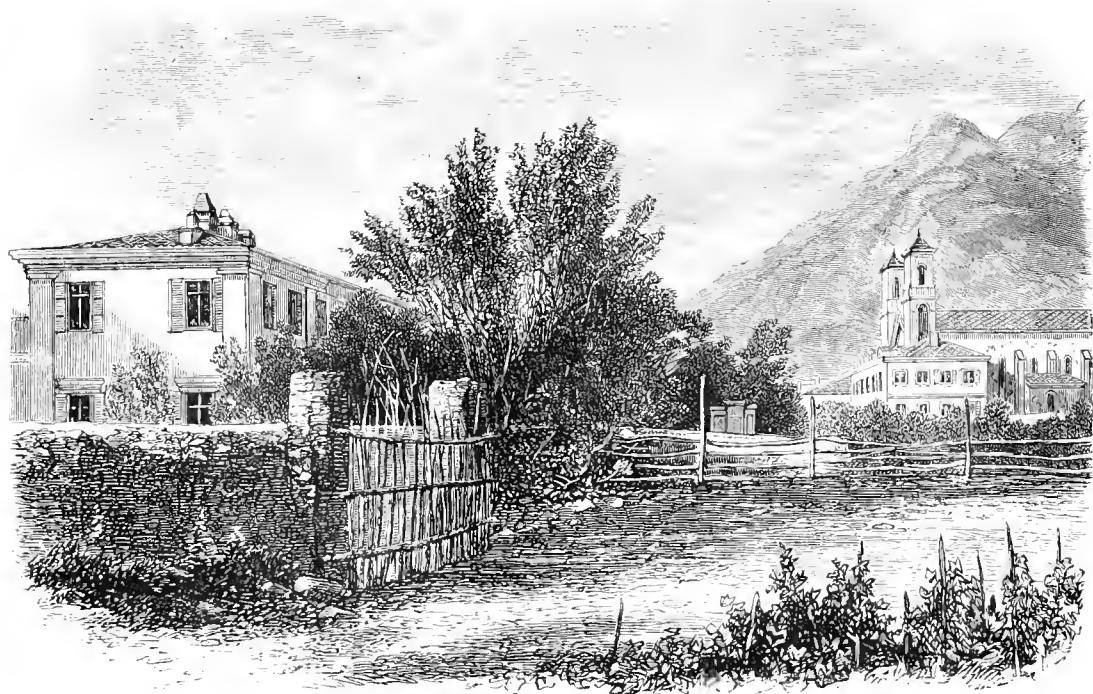


MONTE VISO, FROM THE HEAD OF THE VAL TELLO.

white sweet-scented narcissus, gleaming like pearls on green velvet. Above rise vineyards and little fields of rye or maize intersected by groves of mulberry trees for the silkworm; while the dwellings of the peasant proprietors, with their overhanging roofs and rude verandahs, rise amid the few acres they cultivate. As the valley narrows the path winds under cliffs, where saponaria and the rhododendron

display their flowers, while moist nooks offer abundance of the Alpine auricula, and deep blue gentian flowers. One cannot imagine a more delightful combination of wooded mountain, and nestling hamlets, and craggy peaks, and, far beyond, those dazzling snows which rise over all into the deep blue sky.

The early history of the Vaudois is involved in much obscurity. Even the origin and meaning of their name cannot be positively determined. It is said that in the earlier periods of their history they adopted some of the strange tenets of the Cathari and Manicheans. This is possible; but the charge rests upon no stronger evidence than the accusations of their bitter, unscrupulous enemies. It is clear, that when the attention of Europe was called to them at



THE WALDENSIAN CHURCH AND COLLEGE OF LA TOUR.

*The Rock of Castellazzo in the background.*

the period of the Reformation, they held fast "the doctrine of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner-stone." This is proved by one of their early confessions of faith, in which, after a list of the books of Scripture, distinguishing them from the Apocrypha, it is added:

- "The books above-named teach thus much, that there is one God Almighty, wholly wise and good, Who hath made all things by His goodness. For he created Adam according to His own image and similitude, but by the malice of the devil, and the disobedience of Adam, sin entered into the world, and we are made sinners in Adam and by Adam.
- "That Christ was promised to our forefathers, who received the law, to the end that knowing their sin by the law, and their unrighteousness and insufficiency, they might desire the coming of Christ, to the end He might satisfy for their sins, and accomplish the law by Himself.



- "That Christ was born at the time appointed by God the Father: that is to say, at a time when all iniquity abounded, and not for our good works' sake only, for all were sinners, but to the end He might offer His grace and mercy unto us.
- "That Christ is our life, and truth, and peace, and justice, and advocate, and pastor, and sacrifice, and sacrificer, Who died for the salvation of all who believe, and is raised again for our justification.
- "We do also firmly hold that there is no other Mediator and Advocate with God the Father, but only Jesus Christ. And as touching the Virgin Mary, that she is holy, humble, and full of grace; and so do we believe of all the other saints, that they wait in heaven the resurrection of their bodies, at the day of judgment.
- "We do also believe that, after this life, there are only two places: the one for those that shall be saved, the other for the damned, which we call paradise and hell; denying altogether purgatory, as being a dream of antichrist, and invented against the truth.
- "We have, also, always believed, that the inventions of men are an unspeakable abomination before God,—as the feasts and vigils of saints, holy water, the abstaining upon certain days from flesh, and the like, but principally the masses.
- "We do abhor all human inventions as coming from antichrist, all which bring troubles with them, and are prejudicial to the liberty of the spirit.
- "We believe that the sacraments are outward signs of holy things, or visible forms of invisible grace; and are of opinion that it is good that the faithful do sometimes use those signs and visible forms, if it may be done. But, nevertheless, we believe and do hold that the aforesaid faithful may be saved, not receiving the said signs, when they want place or power to use them.
- "We do not acknowledge any other sacrament but baptism and the eucharist.
- "We do honour the secular power with all subjection, obedience, promptitude, and payment."

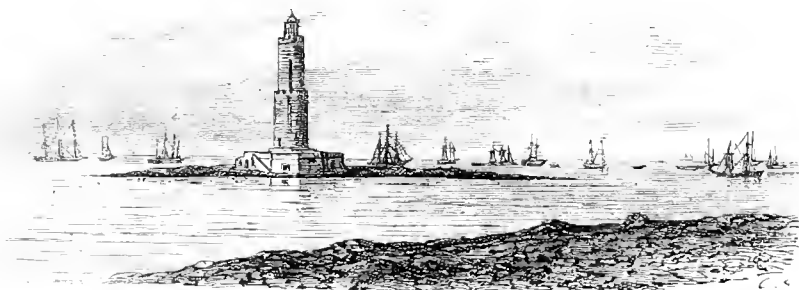
In the maintenance of these truths they endured a series of fearful and bloody persecutions, which must have worn out the steadfastness of any whose faith was not sustained by a more than human power. "Almost every rock is a monument, every meadow has witnessed executions, every village has its roll of martyrs." Interwoven with the story of their sufferings is that of their heroic courage. The defences of Rora, and Angrogna, and Balsille, were marvellous deeds of endurance and daring. Every visitor to La Tour must be struck by the picturesque rock which rises behind the little town. This is Castelluzzo, from which, on April 27, 1655, the signal was given to execute the orders of Christina, regent of Savoy, who sent fifteen thousand soldiers to massacre every Protestant the valleys contained! Accordingly the Marquis Pianizza, with his fifteen thousand men, broke into the valley of Luserna, and the massacre began. "They murdered the aged, and burned them in their beds. They took the men and women, and cut their throats like sheep in a slaughter-house. They took the infants by the heel, and brained them on the rocks; and one soldier, taking one limb of an infant they had torn from its mother's breast, and another taking another limb, they tore the living creature asunder, and smote the mother with the fragments of her own child. Tired of that slow work, they drove the inhabitants up to the top of Castelluzzo and, stripping them naked, tied them head and heels together, and rolled them over the precipice, where they fell bounding from crag to crag."

We cannot wonder that atrocities such as these stirred the heart of Europe

to an indignant protest against the persecutors. The Swiss Cantons, Great Britain, Holland, Germany, Denmark joined in a remonstrance so vehement, that even the instruments of papal cruelty quailed before it. Cromwell proclaimed a fast throughout the United Kingdom, and ordered a collection to be made for the survivors. This amounted to 30,000*l.*—a large sum in those days— of which 2,000*l.* was contributed by the Protector himself. Sir Samuel Morland was employed to carry out the instructions of Cromwell in the matter. Milton, the Foreign Secretary of the Commonwealth, wrote a stern despatch denouncing the crime, and commanding, in the name of the Parliament of England, that these iniquities should cease. Then it was that he wrote the imperishable lines :

“Avenge, O Lord, Thy slaughtered saints, whose bones  
Lie scattered on the Alpine mountains cold;  
Even them who kept Thy truth so pure of old,  
When all our fathers worshipt stocks and stones,  
Forget not: in Thy book record their groans  
Who were Thy sheep, and in their ancient fold  
Slain by the bloody Piedmontese, that rolled  
Mother with infant down the rocks. Their moans  
The vales redoubled to the hills, and they  
To heaven. Their martyred blood and ashes sow  
O’er all the Italian fields, where still doth sway  
The triple tyrant; that from these may grow  
A hundredfold, who, having learned Thy way,  
Early may fly the Babylonian woe.”

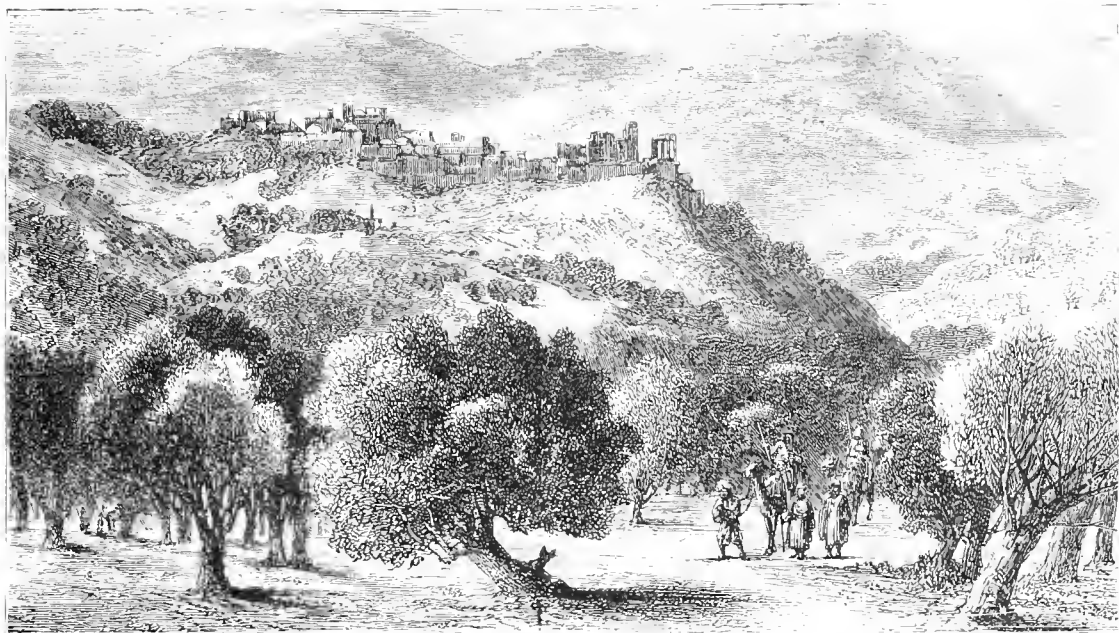
The cry for mercy and vengeance that burst irrepressibly from many hearts and lips throughout Protestant Europe is now being answered in a way which could not then have been anticipated. The persecuted Christians of the valleys are engaged in speaking the words of everlasting life to their old persecutors. Every city, almost every village, in Italy is being visited by Waldensian evangelists, who, carrying out the Divine command—“Love your enemies,” are conferring unspeakable blessings upon the descendants of those from whom their ancestors suffered such frightful cruelties. The fields are white unto the harvest. Already the first-fruits are being gathered in. “Pray ye the Lord of the harvest that He would send forth more labourers into the harvest.”



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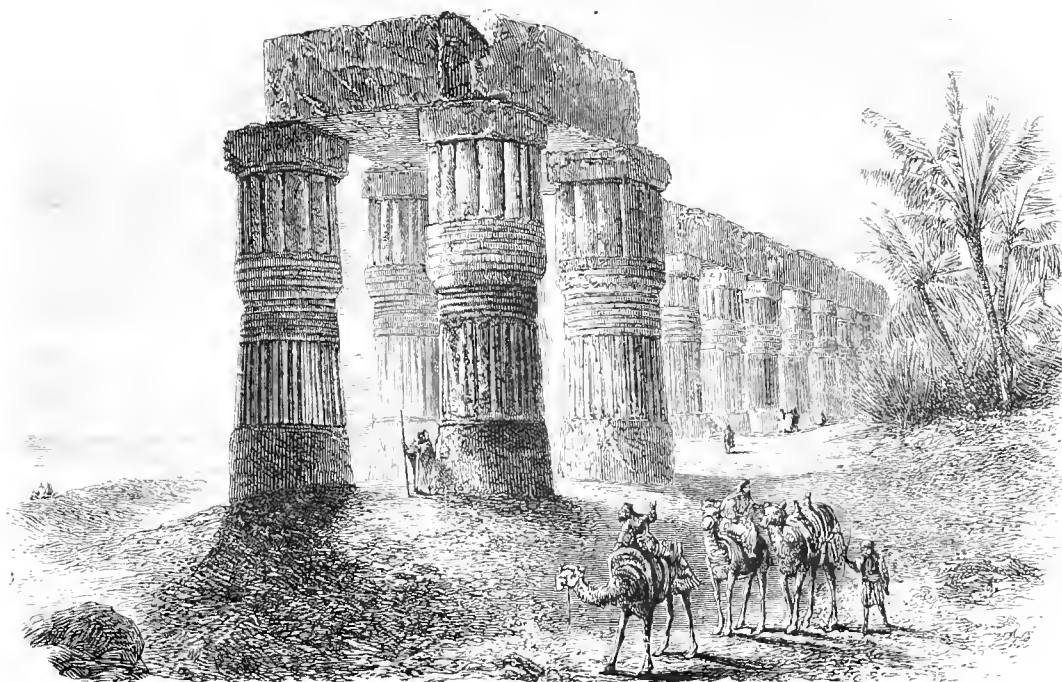


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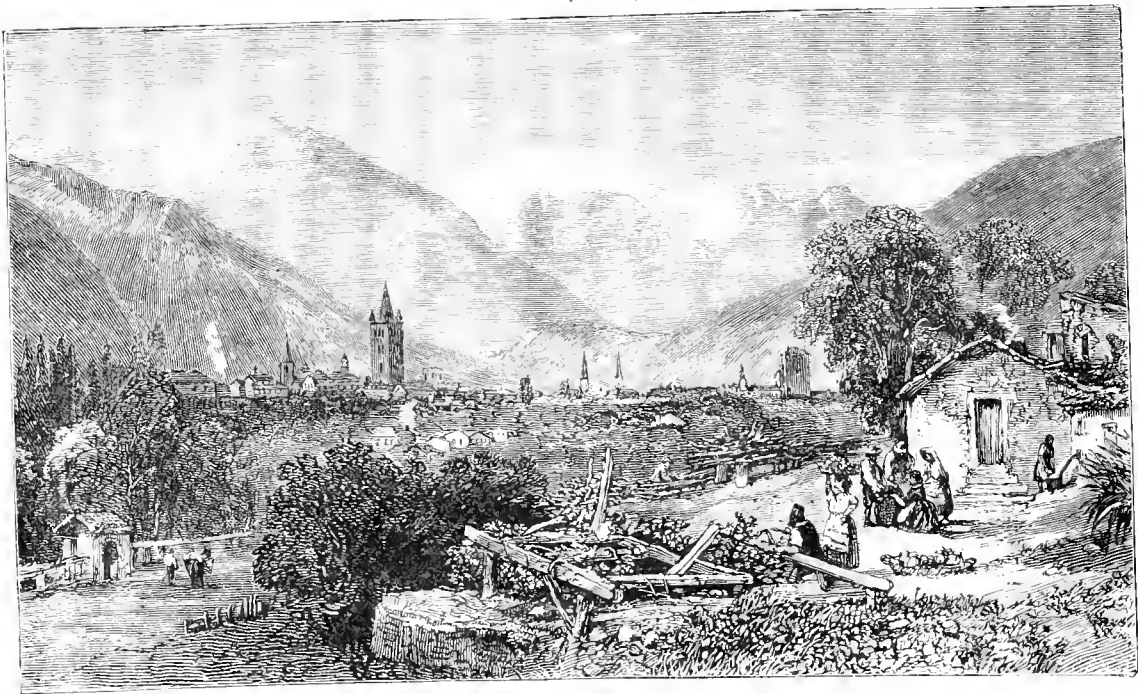
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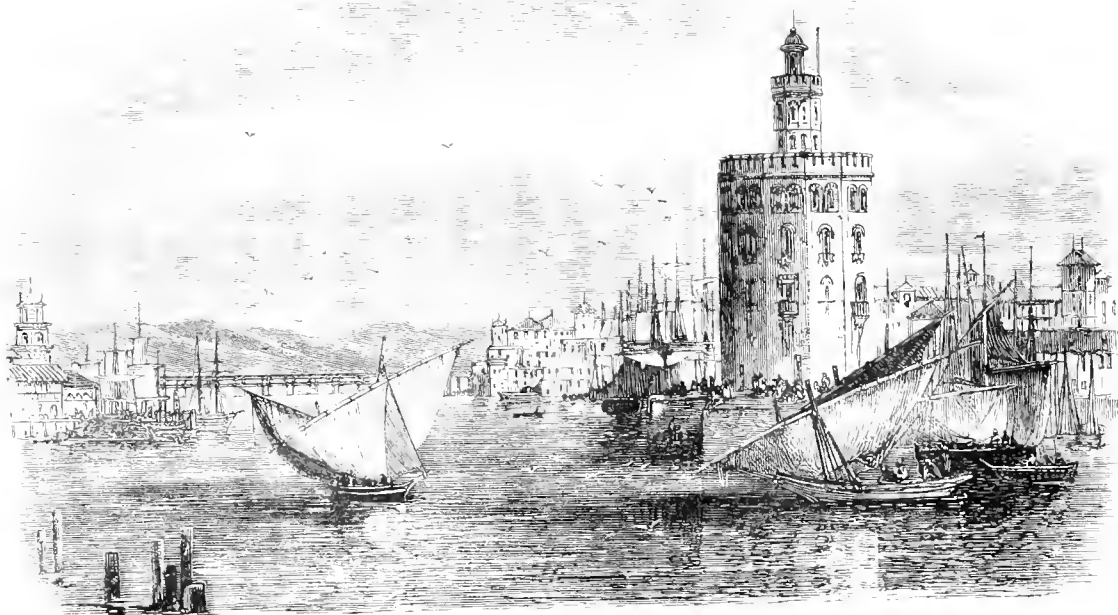


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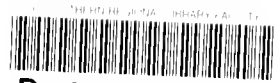
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